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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

Letter dated 21 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the report of the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, which was held at the Vienna International Centre from 25 to 29 November 1996 (see annex), as a follow-up meeting to promote the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995.

The Forum was convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Austrian Federal Youth Council bringing together approximately 400 participants from over 150 countries, consisting of representatives of non-governmental youth organizations, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental organizations which represented regional conferences of ministers responsible for youth.

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* A/52/50.

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For the first time, a diverse number of youth-related intergovernmental organizations participated in the Forum: Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Subcommittee on Youth, Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), Council of Europe North/South Centre Youth Programme, Ibero-American Youth Organizations (OIJ), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Youth Forum, League of Arab States Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, Organization of African Unity (OAU) Youth Section, and the South Pacific Commission Youth Division.

A unique feature of the World Youth Forum was the system of co-management set up between representatives of non-governmental youth organizations and of the youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. This new partnership, called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/59 of 8 September 1989, was reflected in the co-chairing of the Forum's 12 working groups and in the composition of the Forum's bureau which consisted of 12 youth NGOs and 12 United Nations system co-chairs to direct the overall work of the Forum. The report annexed to this note contains the recommendations of each of the 12 working groups of the Forum. The majority of the 400 participants were in the youth age group (especially 18 to 24 years) and over 60 per cent were young women. Those were also unique features of this meeting.

As such, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at its second session was the most global youth event of its kind ever convened by the United Nations.

A summary of this report is included in the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/52/60-E/1997/7). That summary is available in all the official languages of the United Nations. The complete report annexed to the present note has been reproduced only in English due to the length of the document. Additional information may be obtained from the United Nations Youth Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

I would be grateful if you would have the report annexed hereto circulated as an official document of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item and if the report would be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex

Report of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System

Second Session

Vienna, Austria

25-29 November 1996

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* The annexes may be obtained from the Youth Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. It should also be noted that neither the present report nor the annexes have been edited by the United Nations.

REPORT OF
THE WORLD YOUTH FORUM
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

25-29 November 1996
(United Nations Office at Vienna)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. SUMMARY

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 44/59 and 50/81, the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development convened the second session of this biennial consultation of non-governmental youth organizations, youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and of other intergovernmental organizations which represent regional conferences of governmental ministers responsible for youth affairs, 25-29 November 1996, in Vienna, Austria.

2. This tripartite meeting was held at the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) 25-29 November 1996, co-hosted by the Austrian Federal Youth Council (OBJR). The main objectives of the Forum was to promote the implementation of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond through the identification and promotion of joint youth policies and projects.

3. The outcome is reflected in this report and networking arrangements based on recommendations adopted by the Forum for joint action regarding: youth policy, youth communications, youth training and youth projects proposed by the Forum's working groups on the priority issues of the Programme of Action. The results have been included in a report (A/52/60 -E/1997/7) circulated to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in 1997 pursuant to the items concerned with the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth. That summary is available in all official United Nations languages. In addition, extra-budgetary funds have been granted by Governments to the United Nations Youth Fund to finance selected joint youth projects adopted by the Forum which promote the implementation of the Programme of Action.

B. BACKGROUND

4. Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/59, 45/103, 47/85 and 49/154, and as reflected in both the Medium Term Plan 1992-1997 as revised (GAOR A/47/6/rev.1, para. 26.16) and the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond General Assembly resolutions 50/81, Annex (para.125), the name of the biennial consultation between non-governmental youth organizations, youth-related specialized and

organizations of the United Nations System, and other inter-governmental youth-related organizations is the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

5. By its resolution 44/59 of 8 December, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to organize a meeting between representatives of the United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental youth organizations to discuss the problems of communication between the United Nations System and youth organizations with a view to improving those channels and establishing effective structures of communication and cooperation. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to develop methods that indicate specifically how the channels of communication could efficiently be attuned to youth-related projects and activities of United Nations organs and specialized agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly concrete suggestions for cooperation between the United Nations System and non-governmental youth organizations.

6. Based on the mandate, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was convened at Vienna from 27-29 May 1991. It brought together approximately 150 representatives of national, regional and international non-governmental youth organizations and approximately 25 youth-related programmes and organizations of the United Nations System. The Forum discussed and made recommendations on: improving channels of communication, establishing effective functioning structures of communication and cooperation in that regard, attuning such channels to youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations System, and formulating proposals for inclusion in the draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond and the calendar of events for observation of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995. The Forum proposed that it be convened every two years and that the participants be representatives of international non-governmental youth organizations, regional and world youth platforms, national youth organizations, United Nations and agencies concerned with youth and intergovernmental youth organizations. The Forum also submitted concrete suggestions (via proposed partnership projects) between the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/59, related to a policy framework, structures and priority projects for cooperation in the field of youth, including ways and means to improve project design, implementation, evaluation and fund-raising in support of the United Nations Youth Fund.

7. The second phase of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Secretariat led to a rescheduling of the second session of the Forum to 1996. In its resolution 47/85, the General Assembly noted that the Forum had been convened by the United Nations in 1991 and in adopting the medium-term plan 1992-1997, 1/ as revised, the Assembly agreed that channels of communication and modes of cooperation would be strengthened between the United Nations and organizations and agencies of the United Nations System, youth ministries and departments of Member States, and non-governmental youth organizations, and that biennial meetings of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System would be held, particularly for promotion and implementation of the world youth programme of action. Subsequently, the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-fourth session, 10-20 April

1995, discussed and approved the citation of the Forum in what became paragraph 125 of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

8. The General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, on 14 December 1995 adopted the Programme of Action by its resolution 50/81 which included the following reference about the Forum in para 125: "Effective channels of communication between non-governmental youth organizations and the United Nations system are essential for dialogue and consultation on the situation of youth and implications for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly has repeatedly stressed the importance of channels of communication in the field of youth. The Youth Forum of the United Nations System could contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they better reflect the interests of youth."

9. Concerning national level action, the 1991 World Youth Forum discussed several projects to increase the involvement of youth in national development activities. One such project was submitted by Canada World Youth/Jeunesse Canada World, which proposed the creation of a United Nations youth exchange. The idea was followed up by Canada World Youth with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV/UNDP), which agreed to initiate a pilot phase of that scheme to involve young people between the ages of 18 and 24 in pairs (one from a country in the South and one in the North) to work on a short-term basis on specific development projects. In 1993, Canada World Youth and UNV initiated such an exchange between youth participants from Canada and Benin (with 50 per cent female participation) placed for six months in eight rural communities where UNV had field operations. The results were so promising that an expansion of this plan was recommended by all parties concerned. UNV and Canada World Youth and now the Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange (CIU) are inviting national and international non-governmental youth organizations throughout the world to join the scheme and UNV is exploring with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system the possibility of a joint programme, and has agreed to co-chair a working group on "Youth Participation and Rights" at the 1996 World Youth Forum to follow-up this project. Several participants in this UNV "Youth Partners for Development" project (YPD) attended the Forum this year to exchange experiences about such operational activities for, by and with youth and the United Nations system. The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange (CIU) became an active member of YPD in 1995 and is helping this working group of the Forum. CIU joined the YPD project and carried out both North to South and South to North Youth Exchanges in Ecuador, Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka in 1995 in cooperation with UNV.

10. At the regional level, the 1991 Forum called for a new partnership and project-oriented relationship between regional non-governmental youth organization platforms and United Nations regional commission and regional offices of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. The United Nations Youth Fund made grants to the Asian Youth Council, the Arab Youth Union, the Latin American Centre for Youth and the Pan-African Youth Movement to facilitate such cooperation for the 1991 Forum and has agreed to allocate funds to bring the following regional youth NGOs to the 1996 Forum: African Youth Network (AYN), All African Student Union (AASU), Asian Youth

Council (AYC), Asian Student Association (ASA), Pacific Youth Council (PYC), Arab Youth Union (AYU), General Union of Arab Students (GUAS), Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ), Organization of Latin American Students (OCLAE) and Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY). Any scheme to allocate funds for youth projects to follow-up the 1996 Forum will be apportioned by such regions and through such regional youth NGOs. Subsequent to the decision of the Fund, the National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB) agreed to help the Forum by financing the participation of two student leaders (male and female) from each of the above-cited regional student organizations. The United Nations therefore financed the participation of two youth leaders (male and female) from each of the above-cited regional youth NGOs, together with the Youth Forum of the European Union.

11. At the global level, there are approximately 100 youth and youth-related non-governmental organizations that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. There are also six major consultative platforms for non-governmental youth organization vis-a-vis the Untied Nations System: the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth NGOs; the United Nations Headquarters NGO Committee on Youth; the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth; the UNESCO Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs; the UNICEF Youth NGO Consultation Group; and the World Tourism Organization's NGO Working Group: Youth and Tourism. Various nongovernmental youth organization consultative groups and networks have been established for special United Nations world conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development. The World Youth Forum in 1991 provided the first opportunity to bring such youth groups together and relate them to youth projects of the United Nations system. For the 1996 Forum, six sessions of an International Planning Committee were held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France and the United Nations Office at Vienna bring together such youth non-governmental bodies and youth-related agencies and organizations in the UN system and youth-related intergovernmental organizations.

C. OBJECTIVES

12. The World Youth Forum of the United Nations System is the principal platform of youth and youth-related organizations meeting under the aegis of the United Nations General Assembly for the following objectives:

Objective 1:

To provide a forum to strengthen youth efforts, enhance youth involvement in the decision-making processes of the United Nations System, and to develop joint youth policies, projects and programmes.

Objective 2:

To establish more effective and efficient channels of communications and modes of cooperation between and among youth and youth-serving organizations and the youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations System and other youth-related intergovernmental organizations.

Objective 3:

To promote the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and other policies and programmes related to youth based on the objectives and the priority areas of these policies and programmes and the interests of young people.

D. PARTICIPANTS

13. The participants of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System were from the following categories of youth and youth-serving organizations and fulfil the following criteria:

a) National youth participation:

- Independent and fully representative non-governmental national youth councils (and if not fulfilling that criteria or not existing, by affiliates of international youth non-governmental organizations)

- Representative of youth in their country

- Democratic in the organizational processes

- Self organized and mandated/run by youth

- Existing in one of the Member States of the United Nations

b) Regional youth participation:

- Independent and non-governmental regional youth organizations

- Representative of youth in their region/country

- Democratic in the organizational process

- Self organized and mandated by youth

- Existing in eight of the Member States of the United Nations in that region

c) International youth participation:

- Independent and non-governmental (youth and youth-related)

- Representative of youth in all five regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia and Europe and Northern America

- Democratic in the organizational processes

- Self organized and mandated by youth

- Existing in one of the Member States of the United Nations System

d) Participation of youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations System:

- Participation of the youth-related departments of the United Nations Secretariat

- Participation of the youth-related programmes of the United Nations regional commissions

- Participation of the youth-related voluntary programmes and funds of the United Nations

- Participation of the youth-related educational research and training institutions affiliated with the United Nations System

- Participation of the youth-related specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations System

e) Participation of other youth-related intergovernmental organizations (non-United Nations System bodies):

- Participation of the global youth-related interqovernmental organizations

- Participation of the inter-regional youth-related intergovernmental organizations

- Participation of regional youth-related intergovernmental organizations

14. It is estimated that approximately 400 of such representatives (half from the national level and half from the regional/international levels) attended the 1996 Forum, and approximately 60% of the participants were young women. The International Planning Committee has agreed on procedures to assure a gender equality in over all participation at the Forum. Concerning national participation, the Committee at its third session at UN Headquarters, on 1-2 February 1996, agreed that approximately 40 young people should be invited from youth organizations representing marginalized, tribal and indigenous youth. The international and regional youth NGOs invited were either in consultative status or have working relations with the UN system, or be affiliated to such NGOs. The Committee, at its fourth session, decided that of the 400 participants, 75 per cent should be from the South and 25 per cent

from the North, and concerning national participation, the Committee further agreed that one of the two participants per country come from youth organizations or groups at the community or grass roots levels.

E. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

15. The concept of the Forum's work programme is derived from General Assembly resolution 44/59 by which the Assembly called for a new type of communication and cooperation between youth NGOs and the youth-related organizations and agencies of the UN system to improve the channels of communication, to establish effective functioning structures of communication and cooperation and to attune such work to the youth-related projects and activities of the UN system.

16. The Planning Committee, at its second session (23-24 October 1995, UN Headquarters) agreed on a five day Forum which would be focused on working groups (related to the ten priority issues of the World Programme of Action for Youth) and would be based on the following daily agenda: youth policy coordination (day 1), youth communications (day 2), youth training (day 3), joint youth projects (day 4) and youth recommendations for adoption (day 5).

17. The Committee further agreed at its third session on the following co-management arrangement for the Forum's working groups. This consists of a division of responsibilities for the substantive and organizational preparation, convening and follow-up of the 12 working groups:

Youth, Education and Leisure
Co-chairs: UNESCO Youth and Sports Activities Division and the National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB)

Youth and Employment
Co-chairs: ILO and the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)

Youth, Health and Population
Co-chairs: UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF and the World Assembly of Youth (WAY)

Youth, Hunger and Poverty
Co-chairs: Secretariat for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, DPCSD/DSPD, FAO, WFP and UNDP, and Youth for Development Cooperation (YDC)

Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development
Co-chairs: DPCSD/DSD, UNEP and Rescue Mission Planet Earth (RMPE)

Youth and Human Settlements
Co-chairs: UNCHS/HABITAT and Youth for HABITAT

Youth and Drug Abuse
Co-chairs: UNDCP and the Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)

Youth Delinquency and Juvenile Justice
Co-chairs: United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Youth, Tolerance, Racism and Xenophobia
Co-chairs: UNESCO Unit on Tolerance, Youth Forum of the European Union (YFEU) and the Council of European Youth Committees (CENYC)

Girls and Young Women
Co-chairs: UNIFEM and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

Youth Participation and Youth Rights
Co-chairs: United Nations/Youth Unit, DPCSD/DSPD, United Nations Centre for Human Rights/Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)

Youth and Communications
Co-chairs: UNESCO Communications Sector, United Nations Youth Unit, DPCSD/DSPD, DPI/UNIS and the International Youth Commission (IUFO/IYC)

1. Opening Statements

18. Approximately 500 young people from 150 countries and representatives of youth-related organizations assembled at the City Hall of Vienna on 25 November 1996 for the opening of the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, a five-day conference addressing global problems faced by the world's youth.

19. The Forum was formally opened in a ceremony at the Vienna City Hall where Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, Deputy to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, delivered a message from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

20. In his message, the Secretary General said the Forum provided the United Nations system with an opportunity to listen to the concerns of youth and consider how they can best respond. He expressed a hope that youth leaders would also gain a better understanding of the workings of the United Nations.

21. He called the Forum a serious debate between youth organizations, governments and international organizations leading up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

22. In an opening address, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said the youth of today were better educated and more open-minded than former generations, but were faced with new problems in a fast changing world. Young people are in the forefront of the fight for freedom and social justice, he said, "despite setbacks and reactions by authoritarian national regimes."

23. He called upon the delegates to address issues such as education and leisure, employment, health and population, hunger and poverty, environment

and sustainable development, drug abuse, tolerance, racism, xenophobia and communications.

24. He said youth were the victims of contradictory development during regional unification and globalization and especially pointed to Africa as a "whole continent under threat of marginalization".

25. Austrian State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, welcomed the youth delegates, reminding them that Vienna was the United Nations' third headquarters. She said there was a new understanding between the United Nations and youth organizations and youth non-governmental organizations. She urged world-wide cooperation on the problems of youth and said frank discussions and a clear understanding of the long term consequences would prevent unpleasant surprises in the future.

26. Vienna's Vice-Mayor Grete Laska welcomed the participants on behalf of the City of Vienna and wished them success during the week of the Forum.

27. In a statement to the gathering, Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), stressed that his organization recognized the importance of consultation of the young people, especially in matters of reproductive health of adolescents, gender equality, basic education and human rights for young people.

28. He drew attention to the close work between the United Nations agencies and youth NGOs in areas of world health and urged young people's participation in the political process, especially leading to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

29. The common thread of the UNFPA's work with youth prompted the organization of an International Youth Essay Contest on promoting responsible health behaviour. He said policies and programmes that seek to meet the needs of youth must be based on a proper understanding of their attitudes and behaviour. Winners of the contest were honoured during the Forum.

30. He said youth participation in the political process would ensure their integration into all levels of society.

31. In a keynote address, Harald Koller, Secretary-General of the Austrian Federal Youth Council, called upon youth to influence decision making at all levels. He said it was important to build a strong bond between youth organizations and the United Nations, especially during the week of the Forum when Vienna was being transformed into the Youth Capital of the World.

2. Panel presentations

32. Representatives of youth-related specialized agencies of the United Nations system and members of the Forum Planning Committee pledged their support for the forum.

33. Nanda Krairiksh, Youth Focal Point of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), said a recent United Nations Asian-Pacific Conference in Beijing on Human Resources Development for

Youth had raised issues that were relevant to youth worldwide and could be reinforced during the Forum. These included the priority of youth as an investment in the future, addressing areas of education, health, employment, participation in the decision-making process and strengthening institutions.

34. Representatives of regional youth NGOs and regional youth intergovernmental organizations outlined their mandates and their hopes for the Forum's success.

35. The World Youth Forum met on Monday afternoon, 25 November 1996 in a second plenary meeting at the Vienna International Centre to launch five days of consultations designed to advance the concerns of young people worldwide.

36. Statements were made by Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, Deputy to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, by Mamadou Seck, Director of the UNESCO Office at Vienna and representatives of the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Division for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Representatives of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) also addressed the Forum.

37. Following the plenary meeting the Forum launched its twelve working groups which met through 29 November. These deal with education and leisure; employment; health and population; hunger and poverty; environment and sustainable development; human settlements; drug abuse; crime and juvenile delinquency; tolerance, racism and xenophobia; girls and young woman; participation and rights; and communications.

38. Addressing the second plenary meeting on 25 November 1996, NANDASIRI JASENTULIYANA, Deputy to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, said the world community's concern with and commitment to youth, already expressed through United Nations initiatives, would be enhanced by the present World Youth Forum. He praised the imagination, vision and aspirations of young people, calling them a "key agent for social change".

39. Referring to the challenges facing future generations, he said the world was facing tremendous progress in human civilization on the one hand, but disaffection, poverty and marginalization on the other. He also called on youth to play an active role in the preservation of peace and human rights and to take affirmative action to counter the alarming increase in extremism and intolerance.

40. In his keynote address on youth policy MAMADOU SECK, Director of the UNESCO Office in Vienna, reminded the Forum that youth make up the majority of the population, especially in the developing countries.

41. No generation has ever been so well-educated, aware, well-informed about the inequalities in the world, but it was a duty of society to involve youth in all aspects of community life. He outlined the pivotal role of quality education leading to jobs and participating in the democratic process.

42. Education could also help youth face the needs in a fast changing world of globalization and tensions of culture and evolution, he said. The four pillars of education were to learn to know and understand, to learn to do -- attaining professional qualifications, to learn to live together and to learn to develop personality.

43. MARIAN AWWAD, a representative of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) expressed the need to open lines of communications between

the world body and youth. She said knowing the United Nations better would give young people a greater dimension and enhance their personal development.

44. **ZEHRA AYDIN**, a representative of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), reminded delegates of the importance of Agenda 21 for the environment put into effect at the "Earth Summit". He said youth could make a major contribution to global environmental protection.

45. **CHRISTINA GYNNA OGUZ** of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) called on society at large and youth in particular to address problems of drug abuse. She said awareness-raising campaigns should focus on developing coping skills.

46. **RENATE WINTER**, representative of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, said that problems related to juvenile crime was a central point in her Division's programmes. It was now time to make the Convention on the Rights of the Child better known, she said.

47. The representative of the United Nations Centre of Human Settlements (Habitat), **SELMAN ERGUDEN** drew attention to the work programmes attached to global initiatives such as the Strategy for Shelter and the Habitat II Agenda that were adopted in Istanbul in 1996.

48. **THEODORE OBEN**, Youth Officer of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), said his agency had a policy of involving youth in environmental conservation based on the concept that 'the earth is but one country and we are all its citizens'. He said youth had the power to influence change and lifestyle.

49. **LUCA LUPOLI** of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, recalling that Vienna had hosted the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, reminded Forum delegates of the necessity of preserving human rights as a birthright for all in order to enhance present and future society.

50. **JOHANNES SEYBOLT** of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said his agency was already working in 175 countries. He invited participants in the Forum to contact the UNDP officers in their own countries and urge them to work with youth. He said eradicating poverty was a top priority for the Programme.

51. **BRUCE DICK** of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) appealed to participants to "get down to business" during the four remaining days and use the chance to have their voices heard by the United Nations and the world at large. He said it was a time for action, not words.

52. **FELECIA EKEJUBA** of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) emphasized the importance of the gender issue and women's rights. She noted that attendance at the World Youth Forum reflected a balance of men and women and called on delegates to make sure the work during the coming days was equally balanced.

List of Panel presentations

The list of panel participants at the plenary meetings of the Forum follows:

Members of the panel of the youth-related specialized agencies of the United Nations system (first meeting of the plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Mr. Gek-Boo Ng
  Chief, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch
  International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Mr. William Seiders
  Focal Point on Rural Youth
  Editor, Youth Works
  Research, Extension and Training Division
  Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Ms. Jane Ferguson
  Adolescent Health Focal Point
  Division of Family and Reproductive Health
  World Health Organization (WHO)

- Ms. Nguyen-Thi Nhu Phi
  Programme Specialist
  Division of Youth and Sports Activities
  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO)

Members of the panel of representatives of international youth non-governmental organizations on the Planning Committee for the Forum (first meeting of the plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Mr. Joakim Johanson, Vice-President
  International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)

- Ms. Kristen Soerensen, Member of World Board
  World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

- Mr. Datuk Ali Rustan, President
  World Assembly of Youth (WAY)

- Mr. Abdullah Bin Laden, President, US Office
  World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY)

- Mr. Harchand Singh, Secretary-General
  World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)

- Ms. Jocelyne Gendrin, Vice-Chairperson, World Scout Committee
  World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

- Mr. Bas Auer
  Secretary-General
  Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC)

Members of the panel of representatives of regional youth non-governmental organizations
(first meeting of the plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Mr. Huad Hassan, Secretary-General
  Asian Youth Council (AYC)

- Mr. Eric Amenounve, Secretary-General
  African Youth Network (AYN)

- Mr. M'Hamed Abdelali, Chief, Foreign Relations Department
  Arab Youth Union (AYU)

- Ms. Pauline Aarola, President
  European Youth Forum (EYF)

- Ms. Patricia Farrel, President
  Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)

- Ms. Kenia Serrano Puig, President

Latin American and Caribbean Student Organization (OCLAE)
on behalf of regional student unions (ASA, AASU, ESIB, OCLAE and GUAS)

- Ms. Aburto Lludely, Representative
  Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)

- Mr. Leonidas Mushokolina, Vice-President
  Pan African Youth Movement (MPJ)

- Mr. Josefata Streeter, President
  Pacific Youth Council (PYC)

Members of the panel of representatives of regional youth-related intergovernmental organizations
(first meeting of the Plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Ms. Jane Foster, Representative
  Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

- Ms. Claudia Romano, Representative
  Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ)

- Mr. Fabian Koss, Coordinator
  Youth Forum of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB/YF)

- Mr. Ahmed Moustafa Hany, Director, Youth Division
  League of Arab States (LAS)

- Ambassador Shaban F. Gashut, Director
  Education, Science, Culture and Social Affairs Department
  Organization of African Unity (OAU), Youth Section

- Ms. Malia Tafili, Director, Youth Division
  South Pacific Commission (SPC)

Members of the panel of representatives of the panel on Gender Reference
(second meeting of the Plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Ms. Hilde Wibe, Representative
  National Unions of Students of Europe (ESIB)

- Ms. Margaret Rosette Nagita, Representative
  World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA)

- Mr. Nersey Rastan, Representative
  World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP)
  International Youth Committee (IYC)

Members of the panel of youth-related United Nations programmes
(second meeting of the plenary, 25 November 1996):

- Ms. Marian Awwad, Focal Point on Youth
  Department of Public Information (DPI)
  United Nations Headquarters

- Ms. Zehra Aydin, Coordinator, Major Groups
  Division for Sustainable Development (DSD/DPCSD)

- Ms. Christine Gynna Oguz, Chief, Demand Reduction Section

United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

- Judge Renate Winter, Focal Point on Juvenile Justice
  United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD)

- Mr .Selman Erguden, Focal Point on Youth
  United Nations Centre of Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT)

- Mr. Theodore Oben, Youth Officer
  United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Mr. Luca Lupoli, Youth Focal Point
  United Nations Centre for Human Rights (UNCHR/OHCHR)

- Mr. Johannes Seybolt, Associate Expert
  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Mr. Bruce Dick, Senior Advisor on Youth and Health
  United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Ms. Felicia Ekejuiba, Youth Focal Point and Regional Director for
  Africa United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Members of the panel on "Youth and Communications"
(third meeting of the Plenary, 26 November 1996):

- Mr. Maxwell Haywood, Youth Policies and Programmes Officer
  United Nations Youth Unit (DPCSD/DSPD)

- Mr. Carlos Arnaldo, Chief
  Free Flow of Information and Communications Research, Communications
  Division UNESCO Headquarters

- Mr. Harald Gardos, Secretary-General
  Austrian Commission for UNESCO

- Ms. Nora Godwin, Chief
  UNICEF Education for Development Section
  and "Voices of Youth" Internet Project
  UNICEF Headquarters

- Mr. Isidro de Brito, President
  International Youth Commission of the
  International Union of Family Organizations (IYC/IUFO)

Members of the panel on "Youth and Training"
(fourth meeting of the Plenary, 27 November 1996):

- Mr. A.G. Fluitman
  Training Policies and Systems Branch
  International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Mr. Robert Ottisch, Secretary-General
  HOPE 87: Hundreds of Opportunities for Youth Employment

- Mr. Tariq Haleem Chaudhry, Secretary-General
  All Pakistan Youth Federation (APYF)
  and Hope 87 Office Manager in Pakistan

- Mr. Vincent Lam
  Youth Challenge

Singapore

Members of the panel on "Youth Projects"
(sixth meeting of the Plenary, 28 November 1996):

- Mr. William D. Angel, Officer-in-Charge
  United Nations Youth Unit (DPCSD/DSPD)
  United Nations Headquarters
- Mr. Arthur Gillette, Director
  UNESCO Division of Youth and Sports Activities
- Ms. Felicia Ekejuiba, Youth Focal Point and regional Director Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- Mr. Jonas Nystrom, Coordinator
  Youth Partners for Development (YDP)
  Centre for International Youth Exchanges (CIU), Sweden
- Ms. Dian Proudfoot
  Youth Partners for Development (YPD)
  Canada World Youth (CWY)

Members of the panel of senior officials of Governments responsible for Youth Policy
(seventh meeting of the Plenary, 29 November 1996):

- H.E. Mr. W. Amon, Representativé of the Federal Minister for Environment, Youth and Family, Austria
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Jose Seguro, Secretary of State for Youth, Portugal
- H.E. Mr. Juli Minoves-Triquell, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations, New York
- H.E. Mr. Dionosio Siudifonya, Vice-Minister of Youth, Angola
- H.E. Mr. Francis Le Blanc, Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- H.E. Mr. Hugo Estigarribia Gutierrez, Vice-Minister of Youth, Paraguay
- Mrs. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Presidential Adviser on Youth Affairs and Chairperson of the National Youth Commission, Office of the President of the Philippines
- Mr. Reinard François Van der Wath, Youth Commissioner, National Youth Commission, South Africa
- Mr. Abdorrahimi, Consultant, Supreme Council for Youth, Office of the President, Islamic Republic of Iran

3. Gender reference policies of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System

53. Pursuant to item 2 of the provisional agenda, Ms. Margaret R. Nagita, representative of the World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA), Ms. Hilde Wibe, representative of the Women's Committee of the National Unions of Students of Europe (ESIB) and Mr. Nersey Rastan, Representative of the

International Youth Committee of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP/IYC) made introductory statements to the second plenary meeting of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System on 25 November 1996 on the gender reference policies of the Forum. They drew attention to the Statement adopted by the Planning Committee at its fourth session (28-31 May 1996, UNESCO House, Paris, France) which follows:

Gender and young people: why gender?

54. In the past efforts have been made to ensure that women's views, needs and interests were addressed in international forums. The method used was to address women's rights and needs in special and separate development programmes. A gender approach seeks to integrate the needs and experience of women to the wider context. A gender approach acknowledges that men and women's life courses run differently. This is also true generationnally, girl children and young women have different lives to those of boy children and young men in diverse cultures and communities. to ensure equitable outcome from policies and programmes, these different life experiences/courses need to be considered when planning, monitoring and evaluating their impact. Shifting the focus from women to gender recognized that the status of women, young women and girl children cannot be addressed as a separate issue; it can only be addressed by considering the status of both sexes: men and women.

Ensuring a clear gender perspective at the World Youth Forum

The Planning Committee of the World Youth Forum had endorsed the following mechanisms to ensure that gender issues were addressed at all levels and throughout the programme of the Forum.

- The criteria for delegates to the World Youth Forum clearly state that nominations must contain a gender balance, that both young women and men should be nominated. This ensured that the participants at the World Youth forum would reflect a positive balance of young women and men.

- Working group on Girl Children and Young Women. The World Programme of Action for Youth identified this as an important priority area. A working group co-chaired by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, will focus on policies and programmes which address their specific and special interests and needs.

- To ensure that a gender perspective was present throughout the 12 working groups, a Gender Reference Group was convened. Membership to this group was open to any young woman or man who was interested in ensuring that a gender perspective was part of all discussions and outcomes. The Gender Reference Group had two short agenda items. In addition, a table was reserved at lunch time for participants interested in discussion gender issues which had arisen during the discussions of the day. The Gender Reference Group and the lunch time discussions were intended to be open and facilitate to participants interested in gender issues.

The Planning Committee was confident that these mechanisms would ensure that full and fruitful participation and outcome for young women and men at the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

4. Election of officers

55. Pursuant to item 3 of the provisional agenda, at the second plenary meeting of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System on Tuesday 26 November 1996, the representative of the Planning Committee for the Forum briefed participants on the procedures proposed by the Committee for the election of officers.

56. At its fifth session, the Planning Committee of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System agreed that the co-chairs of the 12 Working Groups of the Forum would serve as the Bureau for the Forum. The Bureau would thus be composed of one youth NGO co-chair and one UN system co-chair of each of the Forum's twelve Working Groups. This action was taken to strengthen the co-management nature of the World Youth Forum which seeks, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 44/59 and 50/81, to bring together the representatives of non-governmental youth organizations and of the youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to: 1) increase the channels of communication and cooperation between youth and the UN system, 2) establish effective functioning structures for better communication and cooperation, and 3) attune these channels to the youth-related activities of the United Nations system-especially to promote youth participation in the implementation of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth and other related programmes of action. The representative of the Austrian Federal Youth Council (OBJR) and the UNESCO Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs were accepted as *ex officio* members. It was further agreed that the regional youth/student NGO coordinating bodies should also be *ex officio* members of this Bureau and assist its work through regional consultations among participants on the decisions of mutual concern. Based on such consultations, it was agreed that the Bureau put forward proposals to the Forum in its opening plenary meetings for the officers of: co-chairs (2), vice co-chairs (6), and rapporteurs (2) to preside over its work. Half would come from youth NGOs and half from the youth-related organizations and agencies of the UN system. The Committee indicated that time should be allotted for the Bureau to meet before, during or after the meeting of the Forum and that it was the responsibilities of all co-chairing organizations to ensure geographical and gender balance in the Bureau and in all work of the Forum-whether in working groups or plenary meetings. The Committee, by this decision, replaced Article 7 of the Statute and Rules of Procedures of the Forum, as adopted at its fourth session at UNESCO House, Paris, France, 28-31 May 1996.

57. At the second plenary meeting of the Forum on 26 November 1996, the representative of the Planning Committee presented the names of the proposed Co-chairs: Mr. Junior Bacchus (youth NGO co-chair and Secretary-Treasurer, Caribbean Federation of Youth) and Mr. James Chui (UN system co-chair Focal Point on Youth, Senior Technical Officer, Education, Communication and Youth Branch, United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA). The representative of the Planning Committee further informed the Forum that the complete list of proposed officers as well as members of the Bureau would be submitted to the third plenary meeting of the Forum on Tuesday morning 26 November 1996.

58. At the third plenary meeting of the Forum, the representative of the Planning Committee presented the following names of officers and members of the Forum's Bureau:

Co-chairs:	Mr. Junior Bacchus (Youth NGO co-chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Federation of Youth) Mr. James Chui (UN system co-chair and Youth Focal Point, United Nations Population Fund: UNFPA)
Vice-chairs:	Ms. Elena Mendez (youth NGO co-chair and Bureau Member of Youth for Development and Cooperation: YDC) Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhu Phi (UN system Vice-chair and Programme Specialist, UNESCO, Division of Youth and Sports Activities) Ms. Kristine Sorensen (Youth NGO Vice-chair and Member of Board of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts: WAGGGS)

Mr. William Seiders (UN system Vice-chair and Rural Youth Officer, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization: FAO)

Mr. Harchand Singh (Youth NGO Vice-chair and Secretary-General, World Federation of Democratic Youth: WFDY)

Ms. Marian Awwad (UN system Vice-chair and Focal Point on Youth, Chief, Development and Human Rights Section, United Nations, Department of Public Information: DPI)

Rapporteurs: Mr. Malcolm Bryne (Youth NGO Rapporteur and Representative of the National Union of Students of Europe: ESIB)

Mr. Theodore Oben (UN system Rapporteur, Youth Officer, United Nations Environment Programme: UNEP)

59. The representative of the Planning Committee also cited the names of the other members of the Bureau who were the co-chairs of the Forum's twelve working groups. See Annex IV for the complete list of co-chairs of the Forum's working groups. He also noted that the *ex-officio* members of the Bureau, including the regional youth and student NGO coordinating bodies at the Forum. At its third plenary meeting on 26 November 1996, the Forum endorsed those officers and members of the Bureau.

60. At its fourth plenary meeting on Wednesday 27 November, a few representatives of non-governmental youth organizations asked for a clarification on the procedures used to nominate and select officers for the Forum and expressed the need for more direct involvement of all Forum participants in this process. the co-chairs replied that the officers and members of the Bureau nominated and endorsed on the previous day were only to serve for the duration of the second session of the Forum (25-29 November 1996) and not for the two-year period: 1996-1998. All of the officers of the Forum were subsequently introduced to the fourth plenary meeting of the Forum and cited their respective responsibilities. It was also noted that the first session of the World Youth Forum had used a formula which consisted of two representatives of youth NGOs from each of the five United Nations regions to serve as the officers and members of the Bureau. The new formula sought to better link the Bureau to the actual substance of the Forum (ie. the co-chairs of the working groups) and the co-management nature of the Forum. At the sixth and final plenary meeting, on 29 November 1996, a representative of the Planning Committee reviewed the various proposals submitted by participants (presented in Annex V) and indicated that the Committee would hold a special evaluation meeting in February 1997 at United Nations Headquarters, New York to better examine and resolve those problems for the third session of the World Youth Forum in 1998.

5. Agenda and work programme

61. Pursuant to item 4 of the provisional agenda, the Forum adopted at its second plenary meeting on 25 November 1996 its agenda as contained in document WYF/1996/2 (and as presented in Annex I of this report). Regarding the work programme of the Forum, the Bureau decided to cancer the afternoon plenary meetings scheduled on Tuesday 26 and Thursday 28 November to permit the participants of the Forum to better concentrate their attention on the discussions and recommendations of the Forum's twelve working groups on priority themes related to the implementation of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

6. Working groups

62. Pursuant to item 4 of the agenda, the Forum agreed at its second plenary meeting on 26 November 1996 to establish twelve working groups related to the priority issues of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. In addition to the ten issues cited as priorities in that Programme of Action (Youth Education; Youth and Employment; Youth and Health; Youth Hunger and Poverty; Youth and Environment; Youth and Drug Abuse; Juvenile Delinquency; Youth and Leisure-time Activities; Girls and Young Women; and Full and Effective Participation of Youth in the Life of Society and in Decision-making), the Planning Committee proposed the following changes:

a) working group I on "Youth, Education and Leisure-Time Activities" (merged into one group, the issues of education and leisure-time activities in agreement with the co-chairs (UNESCO and ESIB) and decision of the Committee);

b) working group IV on "Youth, Health and Population" (added "Population" to the title of the working group in agreement with the co-chairs (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and WAY) and decision of the Committee);

c) working group V on "Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development" (added "Sustainable Development" to the title of the working group in agreement with the co-chairs (DSD/DPCSD, UNEP and Rescue Mission) and decision of the Committee);

d) working group VI on "Youth and Human Settlements" (added a new priority issue based on the proposals of youth for HABITAT and related-youth NGOs who attended HABITAT II and in agreement with the UNCHS/HABITAT, and a decision of the Committee);

e) working group VIII on "Youth Delinquency and Juvenile Justice" (adding the term "Justice" to the title of the working group based on a decision of the Planning Committee to emphasize not only the negative, but also positive side of this issue); The Group replaced "Juvenile" with "Youth" regarding delinquency to focus attention on the 15-24 year age group.

f) working group IX on "Youth, Tolerance, Racism and Xenophobia" (adding a new priority issue based on a decision of the Planning Committee and the mandates of the General Assembly of the United Nations (eg. Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples) and of the UNESCO General Assembly (eg. International Year of Tolerance);

g) working group XI on "Youth Participation and Youth Rights" (adding the term "Youth rights" to the title of the working group based on a decision of the Planning Committee to emphasize the rights of youth, especially as reflected in existing international instruments and standards related to youth);

h) working group XII on "Youth and Communications" (adding a new priority issue based on a decision of the Planning Committee and agreement of the co-chairs - UNDPI, UNESCO and the IUFO/IYC - and the mandates of the United Nations General Assembly on this topic: "Channels of communication between the United Nations system and Youth").

63. The Forum agreed, at its second plenary meeting, to the system of co-management of these working groups by representatives of youth NGOs and of youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. Within these groups, youth facilitators and rapporteurs were agreed upon to assist the work of each group, and relevant youth-related intergovernmental organizations were also invited to help those groups.

7. Adoption of the recommendations of the working groups

64. Pursuant to item 9 of the agenda, the rapporteurs of the Forum's twelve working groups presented the recommendations of each of their respective groups to the seventh plenary meeting on 29 November 1996 which adopted all the recommendations by topic of the working groups.

65. The co-chair introduced a draft preamble by which the Forum would introduce the recommendations of the working groups. All of the rapporteurs of the twelve working groups had submitted draft preamble paragraphs for each of their reports and these had been consolidated by the Forum's rapporteurs into an overall preamble. After some discussion, the Forum at its seventh plenary meeting adopted the following preamble:

> "We, the participants of the second World Youth Forum of the United Nations System held in Vienna, Austria, on 25-29 November 1996 believe that the global needs and interests of young people must be addressed by young people in partnership with non-governmental organizations, national Governments and the United Nations system".

66. The representative of the Youth Forum of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the Planning Committee, indicated that the proposals which had been presented by several groups of representatives of non-governmental youth organizations on the future work of the Forum would be reviewed by the Planning Committee at a special evaluation session to be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York at the end of February 1997. He especially noted the proposals in that regard made by: a) the European youth delegates; b) an international grouping of youth delegates; and c) working group XI on "Youth, Participation and Youth Rights". These recommendations may be found in Annex V.

67. Finally, the Forum was informed of joint statements made by the following non-governmental youth organizations"

Vienna Youth Declaration on Western Sahara
(by: CJE-Spanish Youth Council; CNJ-National Youth Council of Portugal; FNJ-National Youth Federation of Cape Verde; CENYC-Council of European National Youth Committees; YFEU-Youth Forum of the European Union; ESIB-National Union of Students in Europe; ASA-Asian Student Association; OCCLAE-Organization of Central, Caribbean and Latin American Students; ANC-YL-African National Congress Youth League, South Africa; UNJA-National Union of Algerian Youth; and UJSARIO-Union de la Juventud Saguia el Hamra el Rio de Oro).

Vienna Youth Declaration of Solidarity with the People of East Timor
(by: CNJ-National Youth Council of Portugal; FNJ-National Youth Federation of Cape Verde; CENYC-Council of European National Youth Committee; YFEU-Youth Forum of the European Union; CJE-Spanish Youth Council; ASA-Asian Student Association; GUAS-General Union of Arab Students; AASU-All African Student Union; NSU-National Union of Students, Norway; OCCLAE-Organization of Central, Caribbean and Latin American Students; GUPS-General Union of Palestine Students; Intercultura of Brazil; and UJSARIO-Union de la Juventud Saguia el Hamra el Rio de Oro).

Vienna Youth Statement on International Solidarity Day with the Palestine People
(by: ASA-Asian Student Association; AASU-All African Student Union; ESIB-National Union of Students in Europe; OCCLAE-Organization of Central, Caribbean and Latin American Students; GUAS-General Union of Arab Students; IUS-International Union of Students; WFDY-World Federation of Democratic Youth; AYU-Arab Youth Union; PYM-Pan African Youth Movement;ANC Youth League-African National Congress Youth League; UJC-Union of Young Communists of Cuba; and DNYF, Democratic National Youth Federation of Nepal).

Youth Resolution on Volcanic Situation in Montserrat
(by a group of delegates from the Caribbean and other regions)

68. At its seventh plenary meeting, on 29 November 1996, the Forum noted those joint statements, but did not adopt them in plenary as they did not relate to the specific items in the agenda of the Forum nor to the reports of the twelve working groups.

8. Closing statements

69. A panel of senior Governmental officials responsible for youth policy addressed the seventh plenary meeting of the World Youth Forum on 29 November 1996 pursuant to item 10 of the agenda:

- H.E. Mr. Werner Amon, Representative of the Austrian Federal Minister for Environment, Youth and Family
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Jose Seguro, Secretary of State for Youth, Portugal
- H.E. Mr. Juli Minoves-Triquell, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations, New York
- H.E. Mr. Dionosio Siudifonya, Vice-Minister of Youth, Angola
- H.E. Mr. Francis Le Blanc, Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- H.E. Mr. Hugo Estigarribia Gutierrez, Vice-Minister of Youth, Paraguay
- Mrs. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Presidential Adviser on Youth Affairs and Chairperson of the National Youth Commission, Office of the President of the Philippines
- Mr. M.R. Abdorrahimi, Consultant, Supreme Council for Youth, Office of the President, Islamic Republic of Iran
- Mr. Reinard François Van der Wath, Youth Commissioner, National Youth Commission, South Africa

70. Closing statements were made by Mr. Gerald Loacker, President of the Austrian Federal Youth Council (OBJR) and Mr. James Chui, UN system co-chair with Mr. Junior Bacchus, youth NGO co-chair of the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

II. REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

A. PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the second World Youth Forum of the United Nations System held in Vienna, Austria, on 25-29 November 1996, believe that the global needs and interests of young people must be addressed by young people in partnership with non-governmental organizations, national Governments and the United Nations system.

B. WORKING GROUP I:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH, EDUCATION AND LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES

The convergence of the 10th Anniversary of the International Youth year, the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the adoption of the World Youth Programme of Action by the General Assembly in 1995 presented a significant opportunity to reflect on and actively strengthen the UN's work on youth issues in partnership with youth organizations worldwide. During the 1996 World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, the Working Group on Youth, Education and Leisure has sought to build upon the momentum of 1995 through the development of creative strategies in the following areas:

1) Youth Policy: Young people have a right and responsibility to participate in Education Policy-Making at all levels, and the objectives outlined in the World Conference on Education for All and the World Programne of Action for Youth should be periodically reviewed and improved. All States must guarantee the right for all people to an adequate education.

2) Youth Communication: The level of resources and leadership responsible for providing "access to education" through various methods of Communication must be radically improved.

3) Youth Training: Educational Training Programmes must assist in the transfer of skills, promote human development, and seek to make vast areas of knowledge operative.

4) Youth Projects: Education and Leisure-Oriented Projects should directly involve youth NGOs, youth-related agencies of the United Nations system and IGOs and should work towards the dual goals of promoting global citizenship and providing opportunities for young people to make contributions to their communities for young people to make contributions to their communities while growing self-sufficient in the process.

Undergoing radical transformation in response to emerging challenges of the 21st century, the fields of Education and Leisure require new methods of organization, financing, and conceptualization. Education and Leisure policies are not exclusively the business of politicians and bureaucrats. As we swiftly approach the year 2000, youth and others concerned with education such as teachers, must be heard and given a central role in efforts toward progressive change in the international system through new policies, communication, training and projects in the areas of Education and Leisure.

Policy Coordination and Communication

In the areas of Education and Leisure, young people lack sufficient channels of Communication and Policy Coordination that are responsive to challenges emerging at the dawn of a new century. Communication in the fields of Education and Leisure must be approached at multiple levels, including among actors at the local community level, between the local and national levels ant at the international level. Whether addressing formal or non-formal education needs, which are increasingly difficult to distinguish between today, the amount of resources and leadership responsible for providing "access to education" through various methods of communication must be radically improved.

Specific strategies for furthering Communication in the areas of Education and Leisure that the working group considered include:

1) Encouraging UNESCO to establish an Education Information Database to disseminate materials addressing formal and non-formal educational needs of youth, in cooperation with the United Nations, agencies of the United Nations, youth related IGOs and NGOs at all levels.

2) Building on UNESCO's Collective Consultation of youth NGOs, broad worldwide, regional and sub-regional networks of community-based, national and international youth organizations interested in sharing information on and collaborating in projects pertaining to Education and Leisure should be developed.

3) National and international bodies should regularly hold training programmes for youth organizations in the area of communicating Education and Leisure goals.

4) Young people, particularly in developing countries, should be provided with the latest communication technologies and encouraged to utilize traditional methods of communication (e.g. arts & crafts, music etc.) when exchanging views on current and future needs in the areas of Education and Leisure.

Education and Leisure policy and policy coordination are also inadequate today for confronting new global realities stemming from, among other forces, impact of global economic liberalization and the weakening of national governments and intergovernmental bodies to provide for people's basic needs. For further analysis of the current "crisis in Education", particularly within the formal Education sector, one is encouraged to refer to the Working Group Paper on Youth, Education and Leisure.

Specific strategies for improving policies and furthering Policy Coordination in the fields of Education and Leisure that the working group considered include:

1) Development of new International Education Programmes in school curriculums that encourage students to respect cultural diversity and explore new forms of governance and how civil society, especially youth civil society, relates to governing institutions.

2) Young people should be directly involved in Education policy-making processes at community, national and international levels.

3) Youth serving agencies in the areas of Education and Leisure, particularly UNESCO, should be provided with more resources to support youth efforts to contribute to their communities and grow self-sufficient in the process through the development of new skills.

4) UNESCO and other United Nations agency efforts to implement the objectives outlined in the World Conference on Education for All and the World Programme of Action for Youth should be implemented, particularly by providing new resources and "access to information" for youth organizations willing to help carry-out such objectives at the community level. This should be achieved even when contradictory toward certain national policies, thereby strengthening the United Nations-Youth partnership.

5) National and international bodies should promote intercultural youth educational exchanges to afford young people the opportunity to develop new skills and experience diverse cultures. Moreover, obstacles to youth participation in such programmes should be eliminated (e.g. stringent visa regulations).

6) UNHCR, UNESCO and other UN agencies should consider developing a special project in conjunction with regional student organizations to alleviate the plight of disadvantaged refugee students.

Training and Projects

In the fields of Education and Leisure, new Training Programmes and Projects are necessary to advance the overall development of young people. Training Programmes and Projects proposed at the 1996 World Youth Forum of the United Nations System must consider appropriate roles for all concerned actors, including youth NGOs, youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and related IGOs.

Some of the obstacles identified in the areas of Education and Leisure-Time Training included:
1) a lack of skilled motivational trainers
2) the complex array of training needs in fields as diverse as literacy, conflict resolution and poverty
3) a lack of equipment and resources necessary to effectively follow-through with training programmes in part due to the constraints imposed by IMF Structural Adjustment Programmes
4) a strong bias toward Western training models and
5) Training programmes many times fail to respond to changing realities and give adequate attention to human skill development.

Recommended Training methods in the fields of Education and Leisure included:
1) First the needs of youth in a particular region should be assessed 2)
Training programmes should attempt to utilize multiple mediums of communication, such as oral communication, music and art
3) Training programmes should attempt to translate ideas into concrete actions
4) When possible, training programmes should attempt to promote intercultural exchange
5) Training programmes should seek to move beyond traditional spheres of job-skill development and help individuals or organizations to maximize their potential in the pursuit of multiple objectives.
6) Training on how to become an effective trainer should be conducted and it is important that young people are encouraged to develop the necessary skills and become effective trainers for the peers early in life.
7) Understanding the educational system and culture of the target group is essential in developing effective training methods and
8) Training hand-books should be developed through United Nations-Youth NGO collaboration.

During the 1996 World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, the Youth, Education and Leisure Working Group advanced proposals for the following joint Youth NGO-UN agency-IGO projects:
1) An International Exchange of Best Practices in Promoting Self-Employment for Unemployed Youth
2) Toolkit: A Global Curriculum for Global Core Ethics Towards Young People
3) Youth-Training and Know-How Project 4) The UN Cafe Project
5) The Student Refugees Education Project
6) UNESCO Summer Institute for Young Leaders.
Each of these projects is elaborated upon in the pages to follow.

Some recurring issues raised by the five project proposals were:
1) Raising adequate resources through Governments and alternative funding sources
2) Ensuring visible youth leadership roles in the joint Youth NGO-UN agency-IGO projects
3) Disseminating information to target groups and youth organizations worldwide that may be interested in initiating similar projects and 4)
Assuring careful evaluation and feedback from all involved and affected by the projects. These issues were viewed as imperative for effectively sustaining and improving the projects over the long-run.

As the implementation phase begins, concerned individuals and organizations are encouraged to offer further insight on the above mentioned youth-oriented training methods and project proposals in the fields of Education and Leisure. Only a genuine spirit of partnership and feeling of "shared ownership" in the project implementation phase and development of effective training methods will succeed in the full realization of the objectives aspired to by the members of the Youth, Education and Leisure Working Group.

Projects

United Nations Cafe for Young People

WHAT: Besides being a meeting place for young people, a United Nations Cafe should also provide a Center for Documentation, Training and Communication. Therefore, on the one hand, an UN Cafe will play an important supplementary role in the education of young people through e.g. seminars, conferences and discussions, as well as through the provision of a documentation center, electronic information, etc. On the other hand, it is a place of communication and gathering where young people will enjoy spending their spare time having the opportunity to participate in and organize cultural, social, musical and other events.

WHY: A Cafe belongs to the everyday life and culture of people in countries all over the world. It is a place to contact friends and to get to know new people, to communicate and exchange information. Such places and centralized meeting points for young people do not only aim to enhance "social life" among young people and provide a "Cafe" place to stay, they also give them the opportunity to actively participate in the organization and execution of its activities. It is emphasized that the "target group" of an UN Cafe, i.e. young people, shall be at the same time the main creators and actors of the activities, as well as the ones responsible for the maintenance of the Cafe.

WHERE: There are no limits as to the places, numbers and specific structures of UN Cafes. They can be incorporated into UNESCO Associated Schools or UNESCO Clubs, they can be run independently or in connection with other bodies such as Youth NGOs, etc.

HOW: Possible sources of finance could be self financing which includes, for example, revenues from the Cafe itself, from concerts and other activities or from fund raising. Another possibility to attract monetary or material resources is through sponsors (e.g. private sector companies, local community). Aid by governments (youth ministries,etc.), UN, youth NGOs can be further sources of finance.

International Exchange of Best Practice in Promoting Self-Employment for Unemployed Youth

WHAT: The project on international exchange of Best Practice of different NGOs is aiming to promote self-employment of unemployed youth. In order to disseminate Best Practice(s) and make this information accessible, several concrete measures will be established: Exchanges between experts will take place, a data base will be created and a secretariat established which will be responsible for the dissemination of information and material. Furthermore, training capabilities and a resource center will be provided. In the short term, better knowledge of useful experiences (best practices) will be the main objective. In the long term, the project will aim to contribute to the reduction of youth unemployment.

WHY: Unemployment is one of young peoples greatest fears when they are leaving school. Youth unemployment figures are rising in countries all over the world. The possibility for young people to find a job and enter professional life is the basic condition for the prevention of social exclusion. The needs of youth are considered to be vastly neglected by government institutions. The lack of training capacities, institutionalized help and funds often impede young people from being integrated into society.

WHEN: The project will be launched in 1997 and will last until 1999.

WHERE: 20 focal points will be established all over the world.

HOW: $ 200.000 - $ 300.000 will be required for the implementation of the project. Among the "outputs" of the project will be the production of a handbook of guidelines on best practice in youth self-employment and the publication of several newsletters. Additionally, young people will be increasingly involved in the work of the project and they can also benefit through the exchange of experiences.

UNESCO Summer Institute for Young Leaders
Understanding International Relations and the Need for International Education

WHAT: The UNESCO Summer Institute for Young Leaders can become an annual series of seminars that combines in-depth study of a particular issue with a training and skills development programme that endeavors to help youth to actively participate in the shaping of a more equitable, sustainable, and integrated world community. While special attention should be drawn to certain issues each year, such as environment, migration,,and human rights, all seminars could relate to the over-arching theme "Understanding International Relations and the Need for International Education".

WHY: UNESCO has the experience, resources and networks to help bring global and ethical perspectives into educational institutions and youth organizations that will motivate and prepare youth to assume responsibility for their future. At present, a multitude of factors, such as a lack of resources and inability to move beyond traditional theories of international relations, preclude youth-serving and youth-led groups from developing International Education Programmes that provide an appropriate environment for creative thinking and analysis on a radically changing world. The proposed UNESCO Summer Institute for Young Leaders could serve as a positive example and provide support to bodies that aspire to expose youth to new approaches in the study of international relations and directly involve youth in the complex, encompassing global challenges of this new age in history.

WHEN: The seminar should last two weeks at a minimum and be convened during a period when UNESCO officials are less likely to be on vacation (e.g. late June or early July) in an effort to involve as diverse an array of UNESCO departments as possible.

WHERE: Every two years at UNESCO Headquarters, and, when possible, in a developing region during the years the Institute is not being held at UNESCO Headquarters (e.g. Regional Offices: Bangkok, Dakar, Nairobi, Santiago de Chile, etc.).

HOW: A proposal with a line-item budget could be submitted for consideration in UNESCO's next two year budget (i.e. the 1998, 1999 budget). Depending on the size of the budget the number of participants could range between 20 and 35.

Toolkit - A global curriculum for global core ethics towards young people

WHAT: This project will have as main goal the creation of a tool kit to assist educators within formal and informal education. Its aim is to work towards the development of a global ethic that encompasses issues such as human rights, mutual respect and understanding, conflict resolution, individual entrepreneurship and environmental issues. The tool kit shall also help to raise awareness of interrelationships between different parts of the world illustrating how ones actions can have far reaching consequences in time and space. It will also enable youth to find out about their own culture and to respect other cultures. Consequently, the tool kit will create a compulsory curriculum on a global core ethic which targets both, youth and educators.

WHY: Curricula are inconsistent with local realities. The type of education taught does not equip the new generation(s) to live in a global sustainable environment.
This projects departs from the conception of education as a life-long learning process that teaches a global core ethic and gives space to full personal development.

WHEN:

29.11.96 Proposal adopted by World Youth Forum.

01.12.96-31.01.97 Prep. of the working staff to coordinate the project.

01.02.97-30.09.97 Prep. of information, materials and its production.
Production of national enclosures.
Political commitment from participating governments.

01.10.97-31.12.97 Distribution of the material.
Teachers and education training, first round.

01.01.98 Launching of project at local level in the five participating countries.
Continuous monitoring of the progress.

01.10.98-01.11.98 Report and evaluation from local, national and international levels.

WHERE: Pilot projects start in different regions, one per UN-defined region targeting all recipient groups.

HOW: As a starting point a definition of the kind of global ethic which shall be created in this generation will be discussed.This can take different forms: mass media, school campaigns with the involvement of students, teachers, youth NGOs, etc in close cooperation with UNESCO and its different Division (Youth, Education, Philosophy). Implementation of the tool kit will start at the grass-root level by training educators. Materials to be used comprise written material, videos, simulation games, role plays, etc. UNESCO and Youth NGOs are responsible for the provision of the necessary material.
The UN will participate in fundraising and will provide technical and material assistance for such initiatives.

Global Project - Youth Training and Know How

WHAT: Among the general objectives of the project entitled "Youth Training and Know How" is the promotion of students enrolment in social issues and training youth to solve social problems. In addition, "Youth Training and Know How" aims to support greater solidarity, cooperation and understanding between young people, particularly between students. Consequently, the ability of local communities in taking self-responsibility will be strengthened by increasing youth and student leadership through training and the provision of resources. Therefore, the project aims to carry out the following activities: to establish or strengthen international, regional, national and local school student unions and, at the same time, develop a manual that can function as a guide for students providing them with information on how to organize these unions, etc.; to create regional and national training centers in order to offer training courses for local student leaders; to establish volunteer groups consisting of students who are sent to rural areas to teach people basic skills in reading, writing and health education; to build houses for children whose parents have died during wars or natural disasters.

WHY: The project "Youth training and Know How" should be established due to the urgent need societies face to solve the increasing problems related to youth (e.g. illiteracy, social exclusion, lack of youth participation). Therefore, training students and student leaders, to assist and reinforce student NGOs to confront the problems of their daily life are necessary conditions to cope with the problems mentioned above.

WHEN: The project should last for several years. A first evaluation of the project is expected within 22 months after the 1996 World Youth Forum.

HOW: The necessary work is planned to be carried out be a variety of different organizations. Many different youth NGOs are expected to support the project. The Latino-American and Caribbean Students Organization (OCLAE) and the Organizing Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) shall play the most important role in coordinating and supporting the activities in the corresponding regions on behalf of Youth NGOs. Other NGOs involved will be FLAJ, European Youth Forum, ESIB, ASA, AASU, GUAS, etc.
Among other organization participating in the preparation and implementation of the project are the Council of Europe which will help to facilitate the reinforcement of European school student unions in Central and Eastern Europe (it will support and enlarge the work of OBESSU and ESIB). The Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ) will assist OCLAE supporting with the development of the project. UNESCO work will include the creation of a data-base of youth-trainers which will be made available to specific regions. Furthermore, UNESCO will provide information and material for trainers and youth NGOs.

Comments on the UN Document on the "World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond"

Youth response on the policies outlined by the UNITED NATIONS (UN) on social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family.

Education may be defined as a continuous process of acquiring knowledge and skills for life. It is a tool for learning and providing the fundaments for a good life.

All UN and member states actions must focus on education as an element of social transformation in all its aspects and consequently education serves as an instrument through which societies may find their identity, freedom and independence.

We are concerned of the lack of youth input in the process of making this document and therefore strongly recommend that the World Programme of Action for Youth will be a living document that is constantly adapted and updated particularly in fora such as the World Youth Forum.

We believe this programme should be implemented by the year 2000 and not beyond. We believe governments must commit themselves to achieving the goals outlined within the Programme of Action, rather than permitting vague language to hinder fulfillment of the programme.

Upon analyzing the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond we view the document as enunciating many of the problems that afflict us today and which must be resolved through the co-ordinated action of governments, social institutions and all parts of civil society. Such programmes give evidence to the increasing action of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which substitutes the rerponsibilities of the state in solving the growing problems relating to education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, the environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, the situation of girls and young women, the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making: problems that comprise the ten priority areas outlined in this programme.

While offering a useful overview of the problems, the World Programme on action for Youth lacks an analysis of the causes that give rise to those problems. Any organization that proposes to eliminate a particular effect must attack it at its roots in order to extinguish the conditions which have made it emerge and develop. We identify structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) and neoliberal economic policies as one of the main sources of problems in the field of education. The main characteristic of these economic policies is its claim to reduced public action, as the law of offer and demand - in other words the market - is considered to be more efficient in providing goods and services. Such an analysis must be taken into consideration by the UN, as being an organization which unlike any other, constitutes the greatest forum of nations on this planet. Today problems lose their national or regional character to become general tendencies that result from the globalization processes taking place in all spheres of our societies. The young students of the North and South, each one of us from our own geography and at the same time with similar dreams, concur in defining our expectations of life as we respond, what society we want.

Following this statement we believe it necessary to define the model of society to which young people aspire in order to be able to propose in each case, alternatives to social conflict. Our conception of a model society has an underlying idea, that the local and global market are at the service of people and not the other way around. All policies must focus on the personal and collective well-being of people. The center of decisions and all barriers hindering this implementation of policies must be regulated and eliminated by the state, understood as the body that advances social relations and the framework and instrument of society for the orientation of its goals.

From this context, we would like to comment on the role that the UN should give education.

An element of social transformation, as much personal as collective, with transformation understood not as a model for social ascent but rather as an instrument that allows citizen participation at all levels that promotes greater welfare.

Technological advancement should define itself according to social necessities based on appropriation, distribution and socialization. When we come to define the educational policies for youth, priority must be given to approaches that guarantee access to economic, social and cultural development of people.

Regarding the aspects which the document analyses in the area of education, we believe that governments and institutions that put forward programmes must ensure that education is not conformed to the status quo and conditioned by the dictate of market laws, but instead offer integral personal tools to resolve concerns and needs.

On acquiring knowledge, we believe that the universities fulfil a fundamental role as each of them is founded on values of autonomy, in the sense of independence from changes in Government politics academic freedom, in the sense of independence for the greater creativity and freedom of thought in exchanging knowledge direct financing and autonomous management of resources that the State guarantee the allocation of resources in the constitution for the unrestricted exercise of autonomy continuing education, in the sense of constantly being at the service of the populations needs and transferring the benefits produced for the defense and growth of individual and collective cultural values participation of all the university community in the decision-making that concerns them.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

1. Access to education is very important and must be regarded as a right and not a privilege

2. Education must emphasize sharing of information between and among youth and youth organizations

3. In as much as the world community has set a target of Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) or Education for all by the Year 2000, this must not be at the expense of higher education

4. Special training must be provided young people to handle emergency situations like assistance to fellow students/youth in war or disaster situation.

5. UNESCO must be strengthened financially to enable its support to student/youth programmes/projects which are educational and cultural by nature. In developing and implementing such programmes, UNESCO must work hand in hand with the Student/youth organizations and avoid imposing such projects and programmes.

6. In respect to the above given statement the relationship between UNESCO and youth organizations, especially those in the field of youth education, culture, sports and leisure activities, must be strengthened more than ever before.

7. We propose that UNESCO should establish a Peace university, preferably in the Middle East, where youth and students can learn and be trained in issues concerning world peace, tolerance, inter-cultural learning, conflict resolution democracy and human rights.

8. Efforts must be made to reward and motivate young people who have taken initiative in social and scientific research, more especially those which are innovative.

OTHER ISSUES (Than Education)

1. Priority attention must be paid to the family as the place where young people spend most of their time, when not in school. The family and the school must work complimentarily in order to raise responsible young people.

2. Problems facing young people living in rural, urban and nomadic areas should be addressed according to their specific needs, with the major aim of discouraging the current trend of massive rural-urban migration.

3. More emphasis must be placed on the prevention of drug abuse among youth through formal and informal education, even as treatment is administratec to drug abusers.

4. We welcome the commitment to youth participation, but the obligatory inclusion of young people in the national delegations to international forum including the UN general Assembly must be stressed.

5. Important is how the recommendations of the World Youth Forum will be implemented.

6. Finally, we reaffirm that our commitment is always to the values and ethic of solidarity and the social, political, cultural and economic democratic participation.

C. WORKING GROUP II: RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT

POLICY

- Employment is the key to the solution of problems related to poverty and hunger, participation and rights, drug abuse and criminality and empowerment of women.

- Youth employment is a serious and complex problem. Its solution requires creativity, commitment and close collaboration among youth NGOs, the UN system and other Inter-Governmental Organizations. It was noted, however, that both the nature and solutions of the youth unemployment problem vary between developed and developing countries.

- Governments are encouraged to ratify and implement international conventions and recommendations which promote and protect youth employment.

Conclusions

- The Group endorsed the proposals for action on opportunities for self-employment, creating employment opportunities for specific groups of young people and promoting community services involving young people;

- It was recommended that there was a need to have programmes designed for specific target groups such as young women, refugees, the disabled, unemployed youth and migrant workers;

- The priorities identified by the Group include capacity building of NGOs, more policy dialogues at national, regional, international levels and increase collaboration among Youth NGOs, the UN system and other Inter-Governmental Organizations;

- the support of the donor community is significant in financing programmes of action targeted at mitigating youth unemployment;

- At the national level the private sector should also be encouraged to participate actively in all community initiatives aimed at promoting employment for young women and men;

- It recommends the preparation of a project proposal for promoting self-employment for urban youth in developing countries.

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Group reviewed the working relationship between youth NGOs and the UN system. It varies from one country to another. Generally speaking, however, the situation was unsatisfactory in the majority of cases. This is because most UN agencies work through governments. In order to increase resources for youth NGOs, governments and UN system should include specific resource allocations for programmes undertaken by youth NGOs. Governments should also make a concerted effort to collaborate with youth NGOs in the design and implementation of youth employment programmes;

- It is important for this Forum to report this recommendation to the General Assembly, especially in implementing the UN World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

- The Group also reviewed the communication among themselves. It was agreed that youth NOGs should exchange information on practical issues pertaining to youth employment. All youth NGOs would benefit from sharing information and experiences, with a view to enhancing the capacity to plan and design youth employment projects. For this purpose it was agreed that a project proposal be prepared for establishing a communication network for the youth NGOs.

TRAINING

- There was a general consensus that training is and should be an integral component of all projects on youth employment. It was recognized that there was a need to differentiate between basic education, vocational training and capacity building. All were prerequisites for NGOs to participate more effectively in the UN system, as well as for them to take their own initiatives with respect to the promotion of youth employment. Any training initiative needs to take into account to employment opportunities in the labour market.

CONCLUSIONS

- It was agreed that there is ample scope for promoting collaboration in the field of training among the NGOs, governments, UN systems and other inter-governmental organizations;

- in order to ensure effective participation of the NGOs in the UN system as well as to play a more effective role in promoting youth employment, capacity building for youth NOGs is crucial. This would require development of good training materials for straightening the management capacity and structure of the youth NGOs, as well as preparation of concrete guidelines for training initiatives to be undertaken by youth NGOs for promoting youth employment;

- given the complexity of managing youth employment programme, it is vital that all initiatives should be mobilized from among the governments, donors and the Youth NGOs from both the North and the South. It was agreed that a project proposal would be prepared for developing a training manual or handbook for youth employment;

- the main target user of the training manual will include the national youth umbrella organizations and their affiliates.

PROJECTS

The Group reviewed a number of project ideas and agreed to submit three project proposals for consideration namely:

- Pilot Scheme for Promoting Self Employment through NGOs for Urban Youth in Selected Developing Countries;
- International Network on Youth Employment and Training;
- Training Manual on Youth Employment for NGOs

These proposals follow:

PROJECT PROPOSAL No1
Pilot Scheme for Promoting Self-Employment through NGOs for urban youth in selected developing countries

OBJECTIVES

- Enhanced capacity building of national NGOs in providing self-employment in urban areas.
- Increased self-employment opportunities for unemployed young women and men in urban areas.
- Improved capacity for young people to start their own business in urban areas.

PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

- Lack of adequate employment opportunities in the formal sector.
- Lack of a appropriate skills among urban youth for self-employment.
- Lack of access to credit facilities
- Lack of managerial skills

ACTIVITIES

- Identify self-employment opportunities for urban youth
- Assess the needs of the urban unemployed youth

- Capacity building of the participating NGOs
- Undertake training and set up revolving fund
- Develop a promotional strategy
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanism

TIME FRAME

Two years

ROLES OF YOUTH NGOs

- Act as Implementing agencies
- Mobilizing government support, especially support of Municipal administration
- Providing feedback to other NGOs and UN agencies

ROLES OF YOUTH RELATED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM AND IGOs

- Providing technical support and funding

IMPACT

- Reduction of youth unemployment in urban areas
- Increased sustainability of self-employment activities in urban areas
- Demonstration of successful schemes for youth NGOs, Governments, community and donors.

PROJECT PROPOSAL No2
International Network on Youth Employment and Training

1. **Subject area**
   - Youth employment and training

2. **Objectives**
   - Improved exchange of good practices for promoting youth employment among NGOs, and between NGOs, the UN system and inter-governmental organizations.
   - Enhanced co-operation among partners of the WYF with respect to employment and income generation for young women and men.

3. **Problems addresses**
   - Communication gaps between NGOs and the UN system, as well as among NGOs themselves concerning youth employment.
   - Duplication of efforts and waste of resources due to lack of information exchange and poor project design.

4. **Activities**
   - Review existing communication between youth NGOs and the UN system, and identify areas for improvement.
   - Identify co-ordinating mechanisms and participants.
   - Determine the contents and means of exchange of information through the network.
   - Operate and regularly update the network.
   - Evaluation and reporting.

5. **Time Frame: two years**
   - 3 months: review and project formulation
   - 18 months: project implementation

- 3 months: evaluation and reporting

6. **Role of Youth NGOs**
   - Responsible for the network in terms of allocating resources for sending information to, and promoting the use of relevant information from the network
   - Sharing information among local NGOs interested in youth employment
   - Participating in evaluation

7. **Role of youth related agencies**
   - Making information and training materials on youth employment available to the network
   - Mobilizing financial support

8. **Impact**
   - All youth NGOs are better informed of good practices on youth employment promotion
   - Successful experiences in other countries are adapted to National and local projects for youth employment
   - Employment promotion activities for youth are carried out more efficiently and effectively.

PROJECT PROPOSAL No3
Training Manual on Youth Employment for NGOs

1. **Subject Area**
   - Youth Employment and Training

2. **Objectives**
   - Enhanced technical capacity of the NGOs, through adaptation of manual to local conditions to carry out programmes for promoting youth employment
   - Strengthens links between the UN system and NGOs at local and national level
   - A more effective and visible role of NGOs in creating job opportunities for the youth population

3. **Problems addressed**
   - Insufficient information about the UN system among the NGOs and youth which hampers the collaboration between NGOs and the UN system
   - Inadequate capacity among the NGOs to organize training, implement projects and prepare training materials
   - NGOs need access to information on youth employment opportunities

4. **Activities**
   - Convening a planning seminar to identify the needs of NGOs review available training materials and determine the format and contents of the training manual
   - Preparation of the draft training manual and circulate for comments among NGOs and UN and other inter-governmental agencies
   - Preparation of training manual

5. **Time Frame: 2 years**
   - 6 months: preparation of Training Manual
   - 9 months: preparation of Draft Training Manual and Circulation for Comments
   - 3 months: Circulation of Draft Manual and Receipt of Comments
   - 6 months: revision and printing

6. **Role of Youth NGOs**
   - to co-ordinate and be jointly responsible for the project
   - to send training materials to the project co-ordinators
   - to adapt training materials to local conditions
   - to disseminate training manual

- to promote the use of the manual and prepare feedback to the project co-ordinators
- to commit resources to the carrying out of the above activities

7. **Role of youth related agencies**
   - Fund raising
   - To provide training materials
   - To make necessary additional material available

8. **Impact**
   - Improved capacity of NGOs to carry out training courses using the training materials
   - Greater collaboration between youth NGOs, the UN system and other IGOs
   - A significant increase in youth NGOs'training activities to promote youth employment.

D. WORKING GROUP III: RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH HEALTH AND POPULATION

Preamble

The Health and Population Working Group included about 40 people from all parts of the world, with a high percentage from Sub-Saharan Africa. The participants in the group agreed that the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY2000) is one of many documents which clearly outline the rights of adolescents and youth to information, skills, services and a social and political environment that supports their health and development (others include the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, programmes of action resulting from the International Conference on Population and Development, the 4th World Conference on Women, the International Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and the Graca Machel Report on the Impact of War on Children). There is now consensus that investing in the health and development of young people is critical to their future health as adults and their children, and to the economic and social progress of their communities and countries.

There is now good consensus about the priorities for action that will promote and maintain the health and development of young people, and ample evidence that youth serving NGOs around the world are already implementing the recommendations of the WPAY2000 and related Conventions/Conferences, through projects in countries and by providing technical and other support for the acceleration of priority activities in countries, and that WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and other UN agencies are paying increasing attention to young people's health and development in collaboration with governments and NGOs. Youth serving NGOs have also demonstrated their considerable resourcefulness and skill in overcoming obstacles such as community resistance and difficulties in sustaining their activities.

Much of the activity undertaken by the NGOs in this group focuses on providing information to young people about critical health issues. There are, however, also some outstanding examples of projects venturing into new areas such as youth-friendly health services. Other areas which were identified as requiring greater involvement of youth serving NGOs include: engaging the news and entertainment media to influence those social norms that promote rather than undermine young people's health and development; organizing coalitions to tackle specific policies that endanger the health of adolescents; focussing training activities on building opportunities for young people and adults to work together to promote their health and the health and development of their communities and countries. In addition, while the health of all young people is vital, the situation of young people who are especially disadvantaged due to social and political strife, poverty and exploitative living and working conditions.

Day 1: Programme

10h30 Participant Introductions and Expectations
11h30 Working Groups: Identifying specific activities outlined in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and related documents (eg ICPD, CYP, Youth Rights Guide, etc.)
16h00 Report-back and synthesis

1.1. Expectations

* Practical/adaptable ideas for implementing the action plan
* Sharing of ideas, experiences and resources in relation to young people's access to information, services, etc.
* Identification of new approaches and ways of linking different interventions (information, services, supportive environment)
* Networking/partnerships and getting to know each other (individually and organizationally)
* Hear from youth about youth-friendly health services
* Strategies for promoting and advocating youth health rights/policies
* Improving the knowledge and skills of the participants
* Assessing the reviewing previous recommendations and actions... to avoid reinventing the wheel!

1.2. Actions - General considerations

It is important to have a structure for understanding the problems confronting young people and identifying do-able activities that meet their needs for health and development:

* Underlying factors, including poverty, unemployment, gender and ethnic disparities, war, urbanization and other cause of rapid social/cultural change

* Immediate causes, including a lack of information and opportunities to develop life skills; poor access to education and health services; an unsafe and unsupportive environment; and few opportunities to participate in the decisions that effect their lives

* high-risk behaviours and health problems, including unwanted an unsafe sex (HIV/AIDS, STDs, pregnancy, maternal mortality, child morality); substance abuse, including alcohol and tobacco; poor nutrition; accidents and violence (intentional and unintentional injuries and disability); and common diseases (physical and mental).

1.3. Activities mentioned in the WPAY 2000 and related documents

Activities were identified that are outlined in the WPAY 2000, the ICPD and the CYP Youth Rights Guide which synthesizes the recommendations of recent international conferences and key conventions. These were then clustered around the basic programming framework that WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA have developed and are using to support programming for the health and development of young people.

1.3.1. What?

Increase young people's access to information and skills:

* Ensure the dissemination of information on Youth Health Rights
* Improve access to information to encourage participation in areas of concern
* Promote health education focusing on nutrition, hygiene and primary health care
* Train peer educators to promote adolescent reproductive health
* Make information and services available to youth to help them understand their sexuality
* Strengthen the IEC component of community health

* Organize workshops and seminars on youth health
* Teach students about physical and psychological development, gender, etc.
* Family life education and sex education in schools, out-of-school settings and families (focusing on behaviour development/change and being age-appropriate)
* Strengthen the IEC component of community health programmes
* Provide skill training to support economic empowerment in order to avoid commercial sexual exploitation
* Educate young men to respect women's self-determination and share decision-making
* Promote personal responsibility for a healthy life-style
* Programmes to decrease malnutrition among young people

Increase young people's access to services (eg. education, health and counselling)

Education
Eliminate gender stereotypes in textbooks and health education materials (including positive images of male involvement)
* Inclusion of health education in primary and secondary curricula (?)
* Ensure basic literacy, job-skill training (marketable) and life-long education

Health
* Train health care providers to meet the special needs of youth
* Strengthen primary health care services in rural areas
* Ensure access to health services
* Offer youth-friendly health services and respect privacy and confidentiality
* Develop and provide young people with access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and care
* Training of health workers in substance abuse
* Develop special services that focus on young people's sexual health
* Support programmes which focus on the major diseases affecting young people (STDs, HIV/AIDS, etc.)
* Advocate for community health services

Other
* Establish support services for victims of violence
* Support peer groups and their cooperation with other community/health services
* Development agencies are encouraged to include leisure time
* Promote equal access to all employment opportunities
* Provide drinking water in rural areas

Create a safe and supportive environment (the immediate environment of family, friends and service providers, and the wider environment created by policies/legislation, the news and entertainment media, etc)
* Promote and enforce laws that protect children/youth from sexual abuse/exploitation and violence
* Provide protection from all forms of exploitation in the work place
* Protect people's right to health
* Cooperation between governments to enforce legislation to protect girls and young women from all forms of violence
* Ensure that pregnant adolescent girls are not discriminated against in schools and that support systems are in place
* Advocacy to eliminate sexual exploitation of young people

Facilitate young people's participation
Encourage young people to be actively involved in community development programmes (as a key contribution to their development and resiliency)

1.3.2. How?

National Planning and Policies
* Encourage governments to make every effort to eradicate hunger and poverty

* Create national commissions for maternal health, including a focus on young mothers
* Discourage harmful traditional practices (prohibit female genital mutilation)

Schools
* Universal and equal access to education should be ensured

Health services
* Promote health projects by youth organizations (including drug-related programmes)
* Increase the number of trained primary health care providers

NGOs
* Promote health projects by youth organizations

News and Entertainment media

1.3.3. Who/Where?

It is important to take into consideration

* Specific settings: urban/rural, emergencies and war (cf. the Report and Recommendations from the Graca Machel Study on the impact of war on children)

* Particularly vulnerable young people (eg. young people living on the streets, disabled young people, young people living on the streets, disabled young people, young people lacking family and community support -- cf. the Action Plan of the First International Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children)

1.3.4. Overall considerations:

* Ensure that programmes are sensitive to cultural norms
* Cooperation: between all NGOs working on young people's health; between government structures and young people
* Research - drug abuse; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; etc
* Monitoring and evaluation (including the implementation of the Action Plan)
* Resource mobilization (campaigns to sensitize and mobilize resources).

Day 2: Programme

10h30 Synthesis of Action Plan activities and identification of gaps
12h00 Group Work: Presentation of on-going projects and identification of successes and obstacles
15h00 Plenary discussion and synthesis

2.1. Gaps

* There needs to be a focus on psychological as well as physical health
* Consideration needs to be given to the different strategies that may be needed for reaching young people in rural and urban areas
* The role of the media and other forms of mass communication needs to be emphasized because of the important impact that they can have on young people's behaviour and on the societal values and norms that frequently undermine young people's health and development
* The role of NGOs as decision makers and not merely implementers needs to be emphasized
* There is a need for focused advocacy
* The issue of counselling needs to be further clarified and strengthened
* There is very little in the Action Plan about how to do it (how to move beyond rhetoric and exhortations)
* Little attention on vulnerable young people

- Disabled youth are mentioned but discrimination against other young people also needs to be included (eg youth living with AIDS)
- More emphasis on young people's nutrition
- More focus on programme-related research

Overall:

In general, the World Programme of Action does not differentiate well between the "What" an the "How", and the goals tend to be more aspirational than operational. Furthermore, as is so often the case, there tends to be more emphasis on information than skills, some emphasis on services but relatively little on creating a supportive environment.

2.2. Projects

A range of projects were described from Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Pacific, Europe and North America, including:

- Women's Crisis Centre (programme for young pregnant women, 13-18 years) -- Jamaica
- "Counselling on Line" (phone support) -- Jamaica
- Inter-NGO programme linking with the MOH to develop Youth-Friendly Health Services -- Zambia
- Population planning policies -- Singapore
- SAMARITAN, caring for street children -- Malawi
- Family Life Education -- Guinea
- Reproductive Health -- Burundi
- Campaign against AIDS among young people -- Zaire
- Youth leadership and reproductive health -- global/CEDPA
- Village concept project -- global/IFMSA
- National programme for demographic renewal -- Croatia

2.2.1. Successes of the projects discussed

Integration/collaboration

- Promoting a comprehensive model
- Links between various peer-education programmes (from different NGOs)
- Links established between youth, peer educators and health professionals
- Integrated approach to projects

Approaches to sustainability

- Community participation
- Self-help work encouraged
- Increased use of community resources
- Community involvement in the development of projects
- Timely and appropriate information and services
- Involvement of traditional community leaders
- Government support
- Development of self-sustainable projects

Youth involvement

- Involving youth in programming
- Knowledge of target group and their involvement

Appropriate technologies/techniques

- Use of appropriate technologies and techniques
- Involvement of celebrities to inform youth
- Using creative, participatory methodologies for training young people

Training/Personal development

- Training youth to run projects
- Intensive training for managers of youth programmes
- Technical support (training) to grassroots groups
- Individual enrichment programmes

* Training of peer educators
* Transference of skills and leadership

Sharing ideas and networking
* Cross-fertilization and sharing of ideas
* Building national, regional and global networks

Monitoring and Evaluation
* Increased monitoring and evaluation (data base)
* Help organizations establish simple Management Information Systems
* 70% of people in the programme have found employment
* Laws have been passed and accepted by the community
* Education and balanced nutrition has been attained

2.2.2. Obstacles encountered in the projects reviewed

Lack of resources
* Donor/recipient conflict of interests
* Lack of financial support
* Lack of resources (equipment, reading materials, etc)
* No government funding (funding available only from the private sector)
* Financial, food and accommodation problems for training programmes
* Difficulty finding relevant information and resource people
* Lack of technical resources and support

Lack of clarity/direction
* Duplication of efforts/lack of co-ordination
* Lack of focus by project developers
* Lack of clearly defined goals
* Unrealistic expectations - by government, UN agencies and NGOs
* Inadequate understanding of diversity of target groups

Community resistance

* Opposition from religious groups
* Community reluctance (imposition of ideas)
* Problems of addressing taboo subjects
* Resistance of community leaders

Lack of continuity
* Lack of commitment by project staff and volunteers
* Lack of continuity

Day 3: Programme

10h45 Overview and energizer
11h00 Working groups:
What were the important factors that helped you achieve your success (and overcome the obstacles)?
What would most help you (a) increase the quality of your projects and (b) increase the number of young people reached by the projects?
14h00 Report back
14h30 Panel discussion: What can UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA really contribute to accelerating NGO projects?
15h00 How can we do what we are doing better, nationally, regionally and globally to turn the World Programme of Action from words to action, (a) 1997 and (b) 1997-2002?

3.1 How have people increased quality and coverage

Identify, mobilize and use existing resources/support
* Involve representatives from a wide cross-section of the community

* If people realize the need for a project it will stimulate their participation
* Use influential or popular figures in the community
* Get community to appoint its representatives on the project
* Invite/involve community leaders to/in meetings
* Use and strengthen already existing resources (eg. trained peer educators and TBAs)
* Strengthen the referral system to link with existing services

Use young people as a resource and develop their capacity
* Get young people to influence/rehabilitate other young people
* Train youth in leadership
* Train young people to disseminate information and influence attitudes and behaviour
* Develop peer programmes
* Use participatory methods for training young people and ensure follow-up

Identify, develop and use youth-appropriate interventions
* Conduct competitions (essay-writing, quizzes, public speaking, talent shows, etc)
* Organize telethons/walkathons/radiothons
* Use comics as educational materials
* Use weekly radio programmes, newspaper columns, radio/TV jingles
* Use celebrities to promote messages
* Identify activities that will attract young people
* Develop TV talk-back shows and special media events
* Sandwich educational programmes between recreational programmes
* Use of simple language, local language, dialect, jargon (understand the youth sub-culture)

Strengthen and develop partnerships
* Work with the government
* Involve people who are concerned with/by the problem
* Maintain good contacts with the funding organizations
* Involve people who have already benefited from the programme
* Use multi-media channels, including representation at meetings
* Understand and involve the target groups of youth programmes

Strengthen project design, management and use of resources
* Continuous monitoring and evaluation of projects
* Develop systems for receiving and using feed-back from the project (eg reference group)
* Provide opportunities for continuous feed-back from all players
* Run refresher courses for resource personnel
* Provide continuous training for project staff (including a focus on the "right" attitudes)
* Detailed training in the replication of successful formulas for reaching young people
* Implement successful strategies used by other similar projects
* Provide resource persons with on-going in-service training
* Endure a good understanding of the target population (assessment and analysis)
* make every effort to auto-finance projects
* Develop income generating projects linked to health projects
* Organize weekly sales, including products made in the projects

3.2. What can the UN Agencies contribute?

WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA provided a brief overview of their structures, priorities and working methods. Key points emphasized in the presentations and subsequent discussions included:

* The most important level of collaboration for national NGOs with UN agencies is at the national level

* There is a need to set up regular meetings between NGOs working on youth health/population and UN agencies
* Youth NGOs need to invite UN agencies to their meetings and inform/engage them about/in their activities
* NGOs need to identify existing collaboration processes between UN agencies (eg Theme groups) and (a) influence them and (b) ensure that there is a focus on young people
* UN agencies need to be increasingly responsive to the needs of NGOs (although there is clearly a great deal of collaboration already)
* UN agencies and NGOs need to identify ways to come together to review and develop policies (eg. young people's access to information and services) and deal with sensitive issues (eg. commercial sexual exploitation)
* NGOs need to be informed by UN agencies of (a) their planning cycles with the government (so that NGOs can ensure that their concerns and projects are reflected), and (b) whether the country is currently on the Executive Board of the respective agencies - to provide opportunities to influence the policies and priorities of the UN organizations
* If NGOs are able to develop strong, technically sound coalitions they are likely to have better access to resources for projects from UN agencies
* UN agencies should pay particular attention to providing support to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to develop and implement health and population projects

3.3. Priorities for action

** Meeting the health and development needs/rights of young people in emergences (and other particularly disadvantaged young people)

** Developing and strengthening youth-friendly health services

** Creating youth centres/safe spaces for young people where (at a minimum) young people can obtain information, non-judgmental listening and referral

** Information/sensitization campaigns on priority issues, including media involvement

** Strengthening and developing NGO coalitions/alliances that focus on young people's health and development (to share resources, develop solidarity, etc.)

** Support global/regional networks that improve the flow of ideas and experiences between those organizations focusing on health and population represented at the World Youth Forum

3.4. Activities

All of the priority activities identified will be developed through collaboration between NGOs and UN agencies at national, regional and global levels, building on and developing the collaboration that already exists. Although the examples given frequently focus on sexual and reproductive health, this should be seen as an example of one aspect of young people's needs/rights for health and development.

3.4.1. Young people in emergencies and other disadvantaged young people

* Identify, understand the needs and gain the trust of the target group: young people in war situations, commercially sexually exploited young people, young people living on the streets and other who lack family and community support and other particularly disadvantaged young people
* Create places/spaces where particularly disadvantaged young people can obtain psycho-social support (including professional counselling) and access to recreational facilities
* Provide the young people concerned with opportunities for self-sufficiency, through income generating projects and projects which enable them to meet their own needs for nutrition and other basic necessities

* Train youth leaders to be responsible for helping to meet the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people in crisis situations, such as refugee camps
* Stimulate regional activities which will facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences for meeting the health and development needs of refugee youth who frequently come from more than one country

3.4.2. Youth-friendly health services

* Advocate for policies that promote the involvement of young health workers in health clinics and services that are used by young people
* Provide training and refresher courses to increase awareness, competencies (eg. communication) and positive attitudes among health professionals, through the involvement of experts in the field, UN agencies and youth NGOs
* Provide training workshops for young people on health and development, including information about the services, when to use them and how to access them
* Develop exchange programmes between the staff of health services and NGOs involved with different youth-friendly health services to facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences
* Develop opportunities for health workers and young people to come together (eg. by inviting health workers to youth workshops)
* Hold regular meetings that include UN agencies, health workers and NGOs to review progress and plan for the future, at community and national levels.

3.4.3. Safe places for young people

Such centres could provide a range of activities/services for young people, including information, discussion groups, social activities, peer education and counselling, professional counselling, opportunities for community service, vocational training and income generation, non-formal education, drug rehabilitation and family planning.

* Start safe spaces in 5 countries and develop a system to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences between them and with other interested NGOs and UN agencies:
* Identify/document existing centres/safe places, and carry out an in-depth review of some of them to identify lessons learnt and programming principles
* Identify communities/NGOs interested to develop safe spaces and provide them with examples of successful projects
* Provide opportunities for the staff and young people involved in establishing such centres to visit established centres and benefit from their experiences
* Hold national and regional workshops to build capacity for the development of safe places for young people and approaches to sustainability, including the identification of funding sources and linkages to existing NGO activities

3.4.4. Information/sensitization campaigns

* Identify the groups for whom the campaign is being designed - young people 10-24, adults, teachers, policy makers, etc
* Identify appropriate channels of communication and activities that will stimulate dialogue and debate on important issues that affect young people's health and development (with a focus on participatory techniques)
* Ensure the involvement of a wide range of partners including government, NGOs, UN agencies, the media and influential people in the country
* Provide training and disseminate messages through a wide range of channels (shows, plays, videos, music, etc)
* Identify ways to promote discussion between young people and adults (and measurable outcomes in terms of coverage, quality and impact)
* Plan annual meetings of the young people involved in national campaigns to review and share experiences

3.4.5. NGO coalitions and alliances

* Carry out an inventory of existing youth serving NGOs and their activities, capacities, areas of work, etc.
* Invite staff of NGOs involved with different aspects of young people's health and development to regular meetings to exchange information and experiences (including UN agencies)
* Identify common needs for capacity development among NGOs and initiate joint training exercises
* Identify ways to develop collaboration between NGOs that have different focuses (eg AIDS, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, income generation, sports) and to share resources
* Plan some common activities (training, campaigns, etc.) that bring NGOs and UN agencies together around themes of common concern that can maximize the use of the available resources

3.4.6. Global/regional network

* Create a mailserve for the participants of the Health and Population Task Force (by 2.02.97), including the staff of the UN agencies in the different countries and regions, to include general information (bulletin boards), coming events and promotion of the World Programme of Action
* Identify possibilities for UN agencies to facilitate the access of young people and youth NGOs to email
* Increase access by youth NGOs, young people and UN agencies to technical support information, resource people, relevant documents, etc. through available information technology and make linkages with other existing Internet sites etc. relevant to young people's health and development and the implementation of the recommendations of the World Youth Forum Working Group on Health and Population

E. WORKING GROUP IV:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH, HUNGER, AND POVERTY

Preamble: Causes and consequences of poverty at the national and international levels

Considering the alarming social situation of poverty in which youth live throughout the world, we, the participants of the World Youth Forum's Working Group on "Youth, Hunger and Poverty", having discussed the principle causes of poverty in all its contexts and in all its specific realities at the national and international levels

A. National level

Considering the absence of a comprehensive national strategy at the level of each Government to adequately treat the problems of youth in poverty, and:

1) The absence of an educational system adequately able to confront ignorance;
2) The lack of a viable population policy to deal with the problems of over population and hunger, illness, and diseases and other social problems;
3) War results in enormous material and human destruction;
4) The unequal distribution of resources in the social, economic and cultural fields lead to under-employment and create unemployment

B. International level

1) Absence of an international strategy to coordinate action among nations to reduce poverty and especially among such important population groups as youth;

2) Economic problems (the burden of debt and exploitation) which lead to the impoverishment of the population and the degradation of the conditions of life;

Recommendations:

1) Recommendations concerning non-governmental organizations

First phase:

a) identify and analyze the needs of society;

b) assure that resources are available to effectively deal with the problems of poverty;

c) define the activities to be undertaken based on the needs expressed;

d) determine the objectives to be achieved and the time frame, means and results foreseen.

Second phase:

a) Identify close partners:

- network of concerned population groups, people of good will, non-governmental organizations and movements having the same goal;

b) Formulate the objectives and strategies:

- exchange of resources and experiences;
- identify the various difficulties at the level of infrastructures, financing and law;
- draw up a report for follow-up and pressure;

Third phase:

a) Help the authorities to understand the utility of actions and interventions;

b) adopt attitudes of respect for responsibilities, negotiation, cooperation and communication;

c) realize a common plan of action.

2. Recommendations concerning Governments

a) Elaborate a good national strategy against poverty which should be both curative and preventative;

b) Support the non-governmental organizations which work in the field of family planning;

c) Develop a micro and macro economic policy to fight against the problems of unemployment and under-employment;

d) Establish a local and national anti-poverty plan of action with non-governmental youth organizations.

3. Recommendations concerning the United Nations

a) Establish a global plan of action

b) Avoid universal solutions and take account of the characteristics of each country and region;

c) Promote the participation of youth in decision-making processes (for example by organizing national forums uniquely for youth)'

d) Take account of all the proposals and suggestions of youth participating in such events;

e) Create a committee to coordinate such anti-poverty activities of youth throughout the world;

f) Inform all the participants in such activities of the relevant changes and events concerned with youth and poverty reduction;

g) Monitor the United Nations actions as catalyst and coordinator of such activities between non-governmental youth organizations.

Projects concerned with youth and poverty reduction

The Working Group discussed the following two operational projects concerned with youth and poverty reduction:

1) Centre for the Technical Support of Youth in the Information Field
(Centre d'Appui Technique aux Jeunes en Informatique, C.A.T.J.I.)
B.P. 591 N'Djamena, Chad

Problem addressed

While the information, telecommunication, and electronic revolutions have swept the world, youth in the least developed countries (such as Chad) have little access to personal computers, telephones and fax, and photocopy machines. Despite advances in literacy by the year 2000, most youth in such LDC countries do not know how to operate such equipment.

Organization of youth

The Centre was set up by an initiative of students in Chad to be a non-governmental student organization open to all Chadian students. The Government of Chad has supported this initiative.

Objectives

The Centre's short term objective is to provide training for students on how to use personal computers for the preparation of selected documents. the long-term objective is to provide a broad range of telecommunication training to students and spread such services throughout the country.

Activities

Each training session is designated for 50 students, has a three-month duration, and uses the format of a working group to organize its discussions.

2. Donko: Project for Young Artisans in Mali
Tel/fax: 223-23-18-81
BP E 1141 Bamako, Mali

Problem addressed

Concerning youth and poverty, Donko is particularly concerned with the flow of young people from rural areas of Mali to the large cities, especially the capital city of Mali, Bamako. While the youth of such migrant populations arrive with hope to find work for survival, they are often frustrated. This leads to roaming bands of such youth in the streets of Bamako looking for work.

Organization of youth

Donko was set by young artisans to provide services to street youth and children.

Objectives

Donko seeks to improve the situation of street youth in urban areas as well as young people in rural areas.

Activities

Donko organizes both relief services and training workshops for youth and children in artisan work. It also has sponsored special activities for girls and young women in such marginal groups and taken action against problems as female incision, nutritional taboos, premature marriage and sexual violence.

F. WORKING GROUP V:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

i PRIORITIES

1. Peace
2. Employment
3. Environment Education
4. Youth Participation in UNEP policy-making
5. Elimination of poverty
6. Youth agencies should become independent

ii OBJECTIVES

1. Promote regional understanding
2. Achieve higher levels of youth employment
3. Create and increase environmental awareness
4. Equip and involve youth in decision making
5. Improve standards of living
6. Create self-dependence

iii STRATEGIES

1. Dialogue and discussion
2. Further development of youth environmental network
3. Environmental and other related training
4. Facilitate access to credit and other sources of funding for sustainable projects
5. Involvement of the private sector
6. Sharing of information
7. Involvement of the media
8. Youth representation
9. Micro-sustainable eco-projects
10. Use of cheap, simple technology that is user-friendly to Africa

iv ACTIVITIES

1. Human rights campaign
2. Leadership training
3. Micro-Eco projects
4. Seminars
5. Community-wide environmental awareness campaign

6. Student exchanges
7. Involvement in UNEP, African and international negotiations

Proposal one:

Project title: Youth of the UN Eco-Awareness Network (YUNEAN)

Project area: Working group on Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development

Objectives: to increase awareness amongst youth about ecological problems and long-term sustainability issues; to support conservation of remaining natural environment resources; and, to create a channel for youth to communicate to the UN, Governments, and other youth NGOs about their environmental concerns.

Problem addressed: Agenda 21 is not known well and is not being implemented universally. There is still destruction of forests and huge piles of rubbish in our streets. There is a lack of scientific knowledge on environmental issues so young people often speak about their concerns without correct scientific backup.

Activities:
1. Appoint a Steering Committee for the site
2. Create an inter-active WWW Home Page for YUNEAN and distributed data-base
3. Raise funds and create a Core Center
4. Advertise position of Editor and appoint Editor, and translators
5. Publish monthly reports on activities of the Home Page and circulate to Governments, UN Agencies, Youth organizations and other interested major groups
6. Receive physical mail at Core Center and enter into the Web site

Time-framework:
1. Steering Committee to be appointed by the end of World Youth Forum
2. Draft Home Page by January 1997
3. Core Center to be funded and set up by June 1997
4. Editor and translators to be appointed by July 1997
5. The Steering Committee to present an evaluation to the UN by December 1997

Role of youth NGOs: Youth organizations to support this initiative, link with the Center, and contribute regularly to the Home Page with information on best practices, ideas, new project, activities, requests for partnership. Rescue Mission commits to raise funds to establish the Core Center. The International Association of Physics Students (IAPS) commits to assist in the creation of the Home Page.

Role of Youth related agencies and organizations of the UN system and related IGOs: to review and use the Home page regularly, to support the search for funds and provide timely information inputs on youth related initiatives.

Expected Impact: greater concern among youth environment conservation and sustainable development; greater commitment among young people to sustainable life-styles; broader scientific base of knowledge about environment and sustainable development issues; more enthusiastic implementation of Agenda 21.

Project Two

Project title: Youth Sustainable Development Training Centers

Subject area: Working Group on Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development

Objectives: provide an efficient and youth-led, youth-managed information exchange centers around the world.

Problem addressed: a lack of an international network for sharing information among Youth organizations and between them and their partners particularly in the developing countries.

Activities:
1. Raise funds and in-kind donations of facilities
2. Set up a pilot Center of 6-10 Centers
3. Provide each pilot Center with computers, audio-visual equipment, photocopier, fax. E -mail and Internet connections, plus a library of key documents.
4. Organize a meeting of the pilot YSDTC Managers to discuss policy and establish strategy for growth
5. Organize an evaluation meeting to review progresses

Time-framework
1. Raise funds by June 1997
2. Pilot networks in place by November 1997
3. Policy/strategy meeting of the Managers in December 1997
4. Evaluation meeting in September 1998

Role of youth NGOs: Support, advise, consult and use the YSDTCs in their region. Rescue Mission will take lead in launching and raising funds for this project.

Role of Youth-related agencies and organizations of the UN system and related IGOs: Assist youth in raising funds, and in-kind donations of facilities from Governments and inter-governmental organizations.

Expected impact: provide tangible focus for youth training in sustainable development in key regions of the world.

Project Three

Project title: Youth Project Contract for Environment and Sustainable Development

Subject area: Working Group on Youth, Environment and Sustainable Development

Objectives: to use the Contract as a tool that helps youth organizations create new partnerships on a more equal and participatory basis.

Problem addressed: Youth feels isolated and detached from the decision making processes related to implementation of Agenda 21. In many cases, they feel their involvement in a partnership project does not build their own capacity or empower them. Most partnership projects do not provide youth with the practical tools or institutional access that they need to fulfill their partnership role.

Activities:
1. Draft and adopt a Youth Project Contract
2. Obtain the endorsement and cooperation of the WYF participants to use, disseminate and support the Youth Project Contract
3. Make the Contract available to UN bodies, governments, youth organizations and other major groups
4. Prepare an evaluation of the Contract use and its outcomes

Time-framework
1. Draft and adopt the Youth Project Contract by the end of the WYF
2. Obtain endorsement of the WYF by the end of the meeting
3. Distribute the Contract starting within one month of the WYF
4. Evaluate the efficiency of the Contract prior to the next WYF and prepare a report

Role of youth NGOs: to disseminate the Contract along with advise on how best to use it locally. To encourage other NGOs and major groups to use the Contract in their partnership creation processes.

Role of youth related agencies and organizations of the UN system and related IGOs: to endorse the Contract and promote its use in its youth related activities; to promote and recommend the Contract to Governments and other international organizations.

Expected Impact: increased youth empowerment; increased partnerships on equal footing between youth organizations and other actors.

PROJECT CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the ______________________________ (youth organization), sign this contract with the ____________________(UN, other IGO, National Government, or Major group) to work on the ______________________________ (project title) under the following terms of reference:

- The project will fully involve youth in its design/planning, implementation, management, evaluation and monitoring;
- The contracting parties will make sure that the outcomes of the project as well as its management steps will be environmentally conscious, socially responsible, and have a positive impact on the community whether it may be local, national, regional or global;
- The design of the project will give priority to local needs in the global context and aim for sustained positive impact in the long term;
- The Youth party of the contract will have adequate access to information, to decision-makers, to the decision making processes and logistical support related to the project;
- The partner organizations will maintain full transparency towards each other and with the target community during all stages of the project;

- The project should lead to empowerment of the Youth partner and build capacity within its organization;
- The contracting parties will share the task of raising the necessary funds and exchange technical knowledge and working skills.

signed by:

Youth organization

UN/Government/Major Group

Date:

Place:

World Youth Forum Endorsement for the Youth Project Contract on Environment and Sustainable Development

The second World Youth Forum, 24-29 November 1996, Vienna, Austria, has considered the proposed Youth Project Contract on Environment and Sustainable Development and has agreed that this is a tool that can empower young people in the partnerships they establish with UN agencies and organizations, governmental institution, and other major groups such as local authorities, NGOs, and scientific institutes.

On behalf of the Forum participants, the co-chairpersons are pleased to endorse this tool. As part of our endorsement, we agree to take steps to encourage the use and distribution of this tool through our network.

Signed by the following:

Youth co-chairs	Working group	UN agency co-chairs
	Education and Leisure	
	Employment	
	Health and Population	
	Hunger and Poverty	
	Environment and Sust. Dev.	
	Human Settlements	
	Drug Abuse	
	Juvenile Delinquency	
	Girls and Youth Women	
	Tolerance, Racism, Xenophobia	
	Participation and Rights	
	Communications	
	Gender Reference Group	
	Youth Exchanges Group	

GUIDELINES on Youth Project Contract for Environment and Sustainable Development

At the Second World Youth Forum, 24-29 November 1996 in Vienna, the participants of the Working Group on Environment and Sustainable Development formulated a Youth Project Contract for Environment and Sustainable Development. The Working Group requests that the Forum Participants agree to support the use and dissemination of this Contract.

The Working Group developed this Contact with the belief that young people need a tool with which they can start project partnerships on an equal footing from the onset. The Working Group feels that this Contract will help youth organizations to set the terms of project partnerships in ways that empower young people and maintain a high commitment to the sustainable development goal. The Forum considers the Contract as a tool for all young people, applicable to all types of projects:

Objectives:

1. To increase youth participation in decision-making processes
2. To clarify and strengthen the cooperation between the partners in a project for the environment and sustainable development, being a UN institution or a local authority and a Youth NGO
3. To establish a communication check between youth organizations and their partners from the inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental sectors.

"How-to"s

If you have a project or activity in mind, and are looking for a partner among local authorities, government institutions or UN agencies, you may consider how you want to design your role in the project clearly. In a project, you will expect to be a full participant. This includes being fully informed about the project steps and decisions taken by your partner from the UN or the Government. The Contract ensures your on-going and active participation by setting the framework of the partnership.

The success of the Contract depends on your support with its follow-up:

- use this Contract in your upcoming project partnerships
- make sure to share the Contract with other youth organizations to increase their awareness about this tool
- distribute the Contract through youth network of organizations, and make it available electronically (if you have a World Wide Web page or access)
- use the Contract creatively: when you sign it with a partner announce it in the media, in your newsletters. etc.

If you have questions about the Contract, you can contact the following organizations"

Rescue Mission: Planet Earth
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Secretariat for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

G. WORKING GROUP VI:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Working Group on Youth and Human Settlements started its deliberations by first holding a discussion on facts and figures regarding ongoing urbanization process and the global living conditions in human settlements, particularly in developing countries. The working group noted that these facts and figures were reflecting the urgency of actions needed to improve the situation in human settlements, particularly related to shelter, social services and infrastructure.

Within this connection, the working group reviewed youth and human settlements related policies and programmes of the UN agencies, governments and other relevant organizations. Participants attending these deliberations made presentations regarding the situation in their respective countries.

The working group noted that Youth for Habitat approach was progressing successfully in some countries, notably in Kenya, Namibia, Italy and Turkey, and that several youth activities were being initiated and/or planned as a follow-up to the Habitat II Conference and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this context, the working group noted with appreciation the invitation of Youth for Habitat/Turkey, with the support of the government of Turkey, to organize an international consultation meeting on the progress of implementation of the Habitat Agenda with specific focus on youth related issues and activities. The working group also noted a similar invitation from Youth for Habitat/Italy to organize a workshop on the theme of "partnerships" in the context of the Habitat Agenda.

With particular focus on human settlements field, the working group recommended that"

POLICY ISSUES/IMPLEMENTATION

1. Human settlements field should be included as a priority area in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

2. All UN agencies, governments, local authorities and other relevant organizations should have specific youth focus, activities and programmes which should be planned and implemented in equal partnership with youth;

3. Each country should establish national and local youth councils (and strengthen existing ones) in order to utilize the full potential of youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this context, a national plan of action for youth should be developed;

4. UN and Governments should adopt policies for the inclusion of youth representatives in the delegations for the Commission on Human Settlements;

5. Projects and programmes utilizing youth potential at the local level should receive priority.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Governments should take action to promote effective communication channels and networking between youth and youth organizations, especially those that work at community level, and responsible authorities related to youth at the national and international levels;

   Youth for Habitat in co-operation with local authorities and private sector plans to initiate vocational training programmes directed to unemployed youth and to street children. As partners of this project it is envisaged that Youth for Habitat will prepare training programmes together with professional organizations, local authorities will provide necessary logistics, and the private sector will promote employment opportunities to the trainees. Exchange programmes on awareness raising on the role and contributions of youth in human settlements management and development should be planned. Plans are under way to publish an international newsletter for Youth for Habitat (Youth for Habitat Turkey will initiate action).

Community participation should be enhanced and projects at national and local levels aiming at improvement of environmental conditions through interalia cleaning, greening and conservation of natural and cultural heritage should be put into practice in partnership with relevant youth organizations.

The working group stressed the need to develop a monitoring process to evaluate the impact of policies and strategies implemented on provision of shelter and achievement of sustainable human settlements with specific reference to youth issues and involvement. The results of such an evaluation process should be taken into consideration by relevant local, national, regional organizations as well as by the relevant UN bodies including the Commission on Human Settlements.

In conformity with the recommendations of the World Youth Plan of Action, the Habitat Agenda, Agenda 21 and the objectives of the World Youth Forum, youth activities and projects that will be initiated should recognize and utilize the full potential of youth and prepare them to take more responsible roles in the development of human settlements. to achieve this objective, equal and full participation of youth and youth organizations in decision-making should be facilitated in co-operation with international agencies/organizations, Governments at appropriate levels, and non-governmental organizations.

2. Noting the initiative of Youth for Habitat/Turkey to prepare a newsletter for Youth for Habitat network (with the support of UNCHS), the working group recommends that the newsletter be utilized as an information exchange tool specifically elaborating on human settlements development issues and it should be prepared on the basis of information received from the regional focal points and other youth representatives as well as from sources such as UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, etc.

3. Functioning of the regional focal points and the advisory board for Youth for Habitat network should be strengthened. Task forces and steering committees should be established for specific activities (such as the organization of meetings).

TRAINING

1. Training programmes should aim at awareness raising and building of common understanding among youth, thereby promoting moral values, sense of civic responsibility and engagement, life long learning, entrepreneurship and the concept of world citizenship.

2. Creative and interactive training programmes should be promoted within which partnerships can be fostered between professionals, youth organizations, and responsible local and national authorities.

3. Exchange programmes between countries should be initiated as a means of promoting a common vision understanding among the youth all around the world.

4. Efforts should be intensified to encourage youth participation in community development programmes which may help awareness raising as well as the empowerment of youth by developing additional skills.

5. Training activities undertaken within the United Nations system should facilitate and promote youth participation.

PROJECTS

Discussions on this topic focused on substantive themes where youth and youth organizations can contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The aim at this stage should be to establish a framework for activities that can be initiated at the international, regional and local levels. The subject areas of this project framework should be in conformity with aspects/conditions and recommendations cited above.

Establishment and improvement of youth councils should be emphasized for better co-ordination and management of such projects.

In policy/implementation, the focus should be on key areas of human settlements development such as housing, social services, infrastructure provision and development, community and municipal management and governance. The project in Finland where youth will participate in constructing housing units for their own use is an example for such projects.

In communications, UNCHS, in co-operation with the developing network of youth, should work towards the facilitation of information exchange modalities among related partners.

International consultations should be organized for and with youth such as the planned global consultations meeting on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with specific reference to youth issues to be held in Turkey in October 1997, and the workshop that will focus on the development of local partnerships and models to promote sustainable development scheduled for May 1997 in Italy. Possibilities of information dissemination on Internet should also be utilized for the same purpose.

Key areas of the recommendations of Working Group 6 are as follows:

1. Human settlements field should be included in the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and all relevant UN agencies should have youth programmes/activities jointly planned and implemented with youth.

2. Local and national youth councils should be established (existing ones should be strengthened) to order to contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and in this context National Plans of Action for Youth should be prepared.

3. Youth should be included in national delegations attending UN agencies governing bodies, such as the Commission on Human Settlements.

4. Youth potential should be utilized in community actions where they can be most effective.

5. Channels of communications between youth organizations and relevant international, regional national and local authorities should be established and improved. In the same context, a specific media (newsletter) should be organized to facilitate information exchange on youth and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. A follow-up meeting to the Habitat II Conference should be organized in 1997.

6. Training programmes should aim at promotion of common understanding between youth as well as with organizations functioning at the local, national and international levels. These programmes should aim at awareness raising, promotion of moral values, civic engagement and responsibility, partnership and entrepreneurial spirit and skill development.

7. The development of youth projects in the Human Settlements field should intensify and co-ordinate actions at appropriate levels, and should address the improvement of municipal management and governance, provision and development of housing, social services and infrastructure and community development as priority areas. Youth projects on specific themes such as street children, settlement of refugees, environmental improvement, and conservation of cultural heritage will also be useful.

H. WORKING GROUP VII: RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH AND DRUG ABUSE

INTRODUCTION

Current situation on drug abuse among children and youth

One of the worst aspects of the drug problem is that it affects primarily those that are most vulnerable, such as youth. The transition from adolescence to young adulthood is a crucial period for the initiation of experimentation with illicit drugs. Drugs have strong appeal to young people who are beginning their struggle for independence as they search for an identity. Because of their innate curiosity and thirst for new experiences, peer pressures, and their rebelliousness against authority, young people are particularly susceptible of the "drug experience"

There are four principal ways children and young people are affected by drugs:

1. Addiction at birth, i.e. the vertical transmission of drug addiction, including the consequent birth defects - due to parental drug dependency;
2. Drub abuse by parents and other family members resulting in child abuse or neglect;
3. Participation in the production, processing and trafficking of drugs; and
4. Addiction during childhood or adolescence and the consequent psychological and physiological trauma resulting from drug abuse itself.

In the past decade, the world production of illicit drugs has increased significantly. The increase in production has been matched by an increase in consumption, rather than by a fall in the price of drugs. The use of illegal drugs has spread at an unprecedented rate and has reached to every part of the globe. There have been significant changes also in the patterns of consumption of drugs and the distinction between the producing countries and the consuming ones is no longer valid, if ever it was.

The importance of drug abuse prevention among young people is mentioned in two documents which are central for all those who are dealing with the well-being of the children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the World Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children agreed to at the World Summit for Children in 1990, contain references to drug abuse.

Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, reads:

"State Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances."

The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children from the World Summit for Children (30 September 1990), when talking about Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances, contains a specific reference to drug abuse in paragraph 24:

> "Drug abuse has emerged as a global menace to very large numbers of young people and, increasingly, children - including permanent damage incurred in the pre-natal stages of life. Concerted action is needed by Governments and intergovernmental agencies to combat illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to counter this tragedy. Equally important is community action and education, which are vitally needed to curb both the supply of and the demand for illicit drugs. Tobacco and alcohol abuse are also problems requiring action, especially preventive measures and education among young people".

STRATEGY/POLICY

In order to obtain long-term sustainable effects in the field of drug abuse prevention it is necessary to define a policy strategy, which works on all levels of society. This means that there should be a focus both on the existing problems and emergencies, and at the same time a strong effort to prevent the risk-factors that can lead to drug abuse.

This strategy should be composed of the following levels:

a) basic social policies that provide children, adolescent and their families with health care, education, employment opportunities, etc. The provision of these services ultimately will reduce the emergence of risky situation that are usually fertile grounds for the development of drug abuse;

b) social assistance policies that are targeting those "in need". They discriminate positively based mainly on economic status and made in favour of underprivileged social groups of children and their families. The objective of social assistance policies is to ensure that their beneficiaries attain an agreed minimum level of well-being which preserve them from the risk of drug abuse;

c) special protection policies that are directed towards children in a situation of personal and social high risk. The beneficiaries of special protection services are among other drug addicts, street children, juvenile offenders, etc. These children require specialized and personalized intervention which are not foreseen by the basic social policies or the assistance policies.

POSITIVE APPROACHES IN PREVENTION

The best proven results in preventive education campaigns and activities have all started from the analysis of drug abuse patterns and trends among young people and their attitudes towards drugs. This research has helped in the identification of risk and protective factors around which a prevention strategy can be built.

This has reinforced the need for a positive focus in preventive education. Substance abuse among children and youth should be conceived as a coping mechanism in stress situation and not as a deviant behaviour, when developing preventive programmes and communications campaigns. Awareness-raising programmes should focus on helping the children and youth to develop alternative coping skills rather than simply pointing a moral finger at them as drug abusers. The children and youth at risk do not perceive drugs in an ethical way. Research shows that the best results and positive impact come from programmes, where development of alternative social "coping-tools" is involved.

COMMUNICATION - DIALOGUE

UNDCP stresses the importance of choosing the best medias, messages and methods of communication. Preventing young people from starting on a drug career, suggests a strong need for sensitivity of communication. Youth (sub)cultures, and perhaps especially youth at risk, are usually reluctant to authorities, which indicates that the sender of drug preventive messages (government, police, teachers, parents, etc) should be aware of current trends and patterns - not only in the illicit drugs available - but also have a thorough knowledge of how young people are communicating among themselves. Peer-led education and outreach-assisted peer-support models have shown some of the best results in the preventive work. One of the key factors of this success has been the informal approach and the strength of having youth with "respect" communicating preventive messages to their peers at risk.

Getting prevention messages a cross, UNDCP involves youth groups in concrete ways, for instance by involving youth in design of projects, in focus group discussions, and in training workshops for peer-group leader programmes. These workshops provide the possibility for youth to participate in decision-making concerning their own future. Thus goes from assessing their own situation, to identify problems and solutions, up to managing the projects. It seems that these drug educational programmes combining both peer-led, developmental skills and educational approaches yield the most promising results.

A central mandate to the UNDCP is to act as a catalyst to stimulate Member States, IGOs and also NGOs to prevent drug abuse. This assistance could be in the form of advice and financial support for selected youth projects, exchange of knowledge an experience of a technical and scientific nature, and last but not least to facilitate (youth) NGOs to create networks internationally, as the UNDCP funded World NGO Forum in Bangkok in 1995 was an example of.

When it comes to the direct contact between the beneficiaries of specific youth related projects our experience shows, that particularly NGOs - being community-based - have the knowledge of the current changes in cultural, social, and moral values. The tradition of being a part of the local community provides the NGO with the benefit of direct informal communication, which is essential in order to establish the confidence that gives the drug prevention messages and work credibility. NGOs are often the first to experiment innovative social policies that later on become part of national social policies.

TRAINING

As mentioned above, UNDCP has recognized the training needs for peer-group based education, development of decision-making skills, and the enhancement of self-esteem as an important integrated part of a comprehensive approach to motivate young people at risk. The fear of shock tactics that were once employed have now largely been abandoned because the strategy has proven to be counter-productive.

The multi-sectoral approach comprehends a broad range of training activities. Among them development of know-how in making information campaigns (radio, tv, posters, etc.), the development of drug educational programmes in schools (integrated into school curriculum), workplace initiatives to combat drugs and community-based approaches like training of social workers to conduct out-reach programmes for school drop-outs, street children and unemployed youth.

Many NGOs want to improve the training skills of their staff dealing with street children abusing drugs. A training project of the Centro Ecuatoriano Capacitación y Formación de Educadores de la Calle (CECAFEC) approved and funded by UNDCP, is providing this training to all the NGOs and government officials dealing with children in especially difficult circumstances in Ecuador. Along the same lines a recently approved US$9 million project on the prevention of HIV among injecting drug abusers in Brazil has a large component of training of street educators on prevention strategies for drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases among street children.

The same applies for more comprehensive programmes when the community has to be involved. In general, strategic alliances among community members have been the key element in the success of many projects. Building a partnership between local government agencies, business, NGOs, teachers, parents and children has proven successful in designing flexible and self-sustainable programmes capable of changing their strategy according to the changing needs.

PROJECTS TARGETING YOUTH:

1. **Drug Abuse Prevention in School Environment**

Special event on education and prevention (1997)
Night school curriculum for working and street children in Bolivia (1995-1997)
Youth promotion and educational families in Colombia (1991-1996)
Assistance to Dominican drug prevention programme (1993-1997)
Drug abuse prevention in schools in Viet Nam (1996-1998)
International Programme of Education Against Drug Abuse in Ecuador and Venezuela (1997-2000)
Awareness programme in Bolivia (1993-1996)
Prevention programme in Peru (1996-1999)
Prevention in the community in Colombia (1995-)
Sector plan in Bangladesh (1993-1997)

2. **Drug Abuse Prevention Among Children and Youth in Especially Difficult Circumstances**

Situation analysis among school drop-outs in four Caribbean countries (1995)
Rapid Assessment surveys among street children and youth at risk in Cameroon, Chile, Ecuador, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Suriname an Turkey (1996-1997)
Expert Forums on demand reduction including issues on street children and youth at risk in Kenya, Brazil, the Bahamas, Cameroon, India, Viet Nam, and Tunis (1993-1996)
Grants to NGOs in Aruba, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Vincent and Venezuela working with children and youth in especially difficult circumstances
Enhancement of NGOs capacities working in demand reduction in 20 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa
Resource centre in Zimbabwe (1993-1996)
Community-based rehabilitation working with 20 NGOs in ten cities in India (1996-1999)
Asia/Pacific training programme on rehabilitation (1994-1996)
Municipal plans for prevention in Colombia aimed at children and youth in especially difficult circumstances (1991-1996)
World NGO Forum in Bangkok (1995)

TOWARDS THE VIENNA DECLARATION ON YOUTH AND DRUG ABUSE

We the youths of today are the flowers of tomorrow.
In light of this working group 7 youth and drug abuse would like the United Nations to:
1. Support physically and financially youth projects throughout the world
2. Include drug prevention programmes into the school curriculum
3. Encourage NGOs to play a part in the training of youth leaders and teachers in the area of drug prevention

4. Monitor the enforcement of children rights in all countries
5. Support workshops for the development of training manuals and information kits for teachers and youth leaders in drug prevention
6. Strengthening the capacities of NGOs networking capabilities by providing communication equipment eg fax machines and computers
7. Encourage and support non-judgmental programmes that are youth friendly and enable young people to make their own choices
8. Establish a law that ten percent of all the national sale of legal drugs be put into youth NGO programmes
9. Recommend a shift in drug policy toward the provision of informed choices rather than anti drug campaigns
10. Encourage government to support projects that provide alternative opportunities for young people, et. employment creation, recreation and leisure activities
11. Encourage young people who have achieved fame to promote responsible attitudes

Background

Participants in the working group came from several background, experience and have done work with young people in the drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation. These include countries, Dominica, England, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Lesotho, Sweden, India and Myanmar.

Process

Participant introduced themselves and their organizations and share their expectations for the working group. Following brief introduction, participant shared their experiences about their work and their understanding of the situation in each country. From these presentation an analysis of their impact was made which give rise to the policy priority for the group.

Policy

It was generally accepted that while we recognize that effort at rehabilitation is necessary as is done in Mexico. We all agreed the prevention programme must be given priority.

Target

It was agreed that the target should be at two groups: (a) children - 6-12 years old; (b) young adults - 13-24 years old

Recommendation

(a) That awareness programme that are youth friendly be strengthen or initiated to enable young people to make choice
(b) That project be encouraged or facilitate that provide alternatives for youth involvement. those include recreation and leisure, employment and training, drama and music, etc.
(c) That social integrative education be encouraged and provide in schools
(d) To promote training of youth in employable/enterprise skills
(e) That peer "counselling" used at all levels of drug prevention

Communications

Several forms of communication mechanisms were examined and we agreed that face to face is consider the best and more practical form. This must be promoted through all medium

a) Media Television
Radio
Newspaper
Youth are creating their own capacity to take advantage of this means

That all media must promote the danger and not the benefit of drugs

b) Games/Sports
Promote socializing witnout indulgence

c) Posters/stickers
Encourage competition and engage in distribution

d) Computers/fax machines
Send positive messages and advertisement to target groups

e) Drama/video
Encourage and provide opportunities for peer dialogue and fellowship

f) Celebrities/role models
That we encourage young people who have achieved fame to promote responsible attitude in music, song, etc.

Training

Since we have adopted children and young adults as the target we are promoting training for those who interact with young people e.g. parents, teachers, youth and community leaders and young people themselves.

PROJECT: "PEER COUNSELLING"

Problems

1) lack of trust by young people of older people
2) young people spend little time in conversation with their parents
3) older persons do not understand the youth culture hence are unable to relate to young people
4) absence of alternative for young people to interact in a positive way

Strategy

To get through to young people through their peers (older youth/same age) by activities like:
- weekend breaks
- parties
- camps
- concerts
- sports events
- regular meetings
- interactive discussions
- fun

Objectives

Train volunteers on how to start discussions
encourage regular meetings among the peers
encourage them to organize meetings and activities by NGO youth leaders
encourage awareness about alcohol and drug - their dangers incorporate with a fun learning element
Volunteers maintain close relationship with NGOs

PROJECT: "TEACHER TRAINING"

Problems identified

a) There is a lack of skill among teachers and parents in communicating with teenagers and young adults.

b) There is a shortage of drug related information

c) The approach to drug prevention varies drastically between different countries

d) There is a low level of motivation among youth-leaders and teachers

Strategy

Compile a training manual for teachers and youth-leaders discussions drugs with young people

Target personalities popular with young people to talk about drugs

Tell young people about drugs in a non-judgmental way. Through role-plays/drama/video
and other youth-friendly medias

Network with other youth-leaders

Objectives

To promote informed choices among young people
To increase motivation and information given to teachers, youth-leaders and parents

Implementing agents

National NGOs working with the UN and IGOs

PROJECT: "INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE"

Disadvantaged youth in most parts of the world may turn to drugs simply because they are deprived of their opportunity to interact with their counterparts.

This creates problems like youth lacking a clear understanding of "global village" concept of life.

Lack of integration among abusers and non-abusers

Youth not getting the opportunity to network and feel a part of the global family.

In order to address these problems, members of G7 for youth and drug abuse decided to make a project on International Youth Exchange.

Strategy

In order to achieve the above objectives, we decided on number of different approaches/strategies:

These can take the form of dramas, role-plays, use of video, etc. It is necessary that these young people interact so that they learn from each other, other than from older people who may not have knowledge of the youth culture.

It is also necessary that whatever activity the young undertake is heavily group based. The idea is to promote interaction and develop a feeling among youth that they are a part of the global village.

The implementation of these ideas can be done by fun based activities, cultural exchanges and sharing of organizational experiences. Dramas, films, camping, and many other activities relevant to each nation and group based can be used. These can establish networking, self confidence and offer support to young drug abusers.

Objectives

a) To help youth develop clear understanding of the "global village" concept of life.

b) To promote integration among abusers and non-drug users.

c) To promote development of self confidence, and to offer support to young drug abusers

d) To establish networking among youth so that they feel a part of the global family.

Recommendations

We therefore, recommend the following:

a) Workshop for developing training manuals and information kit for teachers and youth leaders

b) Provide opportunity to young people to develop games to use in training groups

c) Develop programme to train young people in relevant skills for employment and leisure

d) Training of youth in the practice use of media and computers

e) Training of youth leaders in project design and marketing

f) A social integration course be taught to teachers

g) That NGOs play a part in the social integration areas at colleagues and universities.

Projects:

Projects were developed around the ideas presented by the group. These include:

a) International/regional and national exchanges
b) To engage peer counselling on drugs
c) Sporting leisure programme and fun learning activities
d) Video/drama production
e) Discussion in drug issues
f) Documentation of all activities for learning kit

Agent: NGO
Funding: UN/Government and Private Sector

I. WORKING GROUP VIII: RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH DELINQUENCY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

"If a child lives with criticism, she learns to condemn
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight
If a child lives with ridicule, she learns to be shy
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilt
If a child lives with tolerance, she learns to be patient
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence
If a child lives with praise, she learns to appreciate
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice
If a child lives with security, she learns to have faith
If a child lives with approval. he learns to like himself
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he or she learns
to find love in the world"

(source: Scottish Health Education Group)

Vienna Declaration on Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice

We, the participants of the Working Group on "Youth Delinquency and Juvenile Justice" at the World Youth Forum of the United Nations, coming from youth NGOs of all five UN regions and from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD/UNOV),

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,

Reaffirming the principles of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY2000), especially para.86, through para.90. concerning the field of youth crime prevention and juvenile justice,

Emphasizing our vision of prevention, where we take into account that young offenders always are victims as well - and if not at present then in the future,

Recommend, that the United Nations, in cooperation with youth, youth NGOs and the International Governmental Organizations,

1. Ensure, that hopelessness and desperation, as well as difficult economic circumstances, are no longer ignored - these being the main reasons for juveniles to become offenders as well as victims in the first place;
2. Make widely known that imprisonment is not the adequate solution to ensure that juveniles in difficult circumstances be (re-)integrated into society;
3. Give (youth) NGOs or NGO-groups the right to have access to those young offenders who are already in prison;
4. Spread knowledge about the UN system and its functioning, especially with regard to youth crime prevention and juvenile justice;
5. Create more concrete influence for youth NGOs in UN decision making bodies;

6. Work together towards the establishing of a "Global Networking System in the Field of Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice", as in the annexed project proposal;

7. Join forces and use the proposed networking system for lobbying the governments;

8. Promote training seminars for juvenile justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, police, law enforcement personnel, social workers), concerned adults (parents, teachers, religious leaders, youth leaders, political opinion leaders and media professionals as well as law making professionals);

9. Support the creation of training programmes with the help of additional specialists from regional institutions, independent research groups and individual experts;

10. Work towards the realization of projects which were agreed upon by the Working Group on "Youth Delinquency and Juvenile Justice" of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

Daily report of Working Group VIII:

Day 1 - Youth Policy

1. Our working group was attended by representatives of 16 different youth NGOs from all five UN regions, as well as a representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD/UNOV).

2. After a brief introduction by the UN systems co-chair, Mr. Renate Winter, of the CPCJD, members from all five UN regions explained the situation concerning juvenile crime and delinquency in the different countries of their regions.

3. We found out that there are different categories of juvenile crime in different areas of our world which need different approaches. Some examples are: street children, war children, young refugees, urban youth gangs and others.

4. However, we also found out that all different causes for juvenile crime result in a general lack of confidence and focus for the young people's future.

5. Every young offender will eventually become a victim herself/himself. For example, a young drug dealer will be a victim of adult violence when she/he is imprisoned.

6. After further discussions in small groups, we identified several main issues:

- Prevention of youth crime
- Prevention of imprisonment of children and young people
- (youth) NGOs shall be allowed to work with imprisoned youth
- (Re-) integration of former youth prisoners into society

Day 1 - Youth Communication

7. We discovered that the members of our Working Group did not know enough about the structure and functioning of the UN system in general and in the field of juvenile justice in particular.

8. Therefore, the UN co-chair gave a brief introduction, including already existing channels of communication for (youth) NGOs to the relevant UN

agencies and UN decision making bodies - in our case the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

9. Mr. Ruppert Schildböck, of the World Organization (WOSM), the youth NGO co-chair, explained two alternative ways of how the recommendations of our Working Group (and similar future youth NGO input) could reach the UN system. First, the Secretary General's report to the General Assembly (GA), because the World Youth Forum was requested by the GA, and second, through the normal channels, that means through the respective ECOSOC Commissions and the ECOSOC Session. We all agreed that the existing structure is not at all satisfactory because active involvement of young people is very difficult at the moment.

10. In the process of our discussions we looked for practical solutions to improve this situation. Everyone concerned about youth crime prevention and juvenile justice should work towards:
- Spreading knowledge about the UN system and how it works (with regard to youth crime prevention and juvenile justice) to young people;
- Creating more concrete influence for (youth) NGOs in the UN system;
- Establishing a "Global Networking System in the Field of Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice", involving young people, youth NGOs, IGOs and the UN system, aimed at - inter alia - lobbying the governments;
- Establishing networks of NGOs to simplify and economize the communication with the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (CPCJD);
- Constituting the right to vote for (youth) NGOs in the relevant UN policy making bodies (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice);
- Improving and optimizing the positive role of the media in communication (in the field of youth crime prevention and juvenile justice);

11. The UN system co-chair provided every participant with a list of the names of the current 40 Member States of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, thus enabling the participants of the Working Group to lobby the respective Governments.

Day 2 - Youth Training

12. Starting the discussion we agreed that by "training" we mean that every training efforts should be aimed at prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency and not at solving problems when the crime has already been committed.

13. We identified four main questions which are important to be answered when effective training is concerned:

- What should we train?
- Who should do the training?
- Who should be the target groups for the training?
- How should we train?

14. Finding answers to these questions, we analyzed the relevant section of the UN World Programme of Action to the Year 2000 and Beyond (para 86 to 90) which already includes possible ideas of what could be the themes of training.

15. We, then identified three main target groups for our training:
- the group of juvenile justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, police, law enforcement, social workers);
- the group of concerned adults (parents, teachers, religious leaders, youth leaders, political opinion leaders, media professionals);
- and finally the most difficult group of law making professionals;

16. We also analyzed the question of who should do the training:
- personnel of the UN system in general, especially of the CPCJD/UNOV;
- personnel of universities and other research institutions;
- members of specialized NGOs;

17. When it comes to elaborating the training programmes, additional specialists would have to be consulted, such as the regional UN institutions, independent research groups and individual experts. Special emphasis should be given to the knowledge and experience of specialized and non-specialized NGO groups.

18. Concerning the question of how to run the training, we identified three different levels:

- media:
  - examination and adaptation of existing media;
  - providing new media (special manuals, books, films, videos, etc) for children, young people and adults, explaining the contents of existing (and future) UN instruments in the field of juvenile justice and how to work with them;

- training seminars:
  - evaluation of the needs;
  - development of (joint) lectures by the CPCJD and youth NGOs;

- teaching programmes:
  - examination and adaptation of existing training programmes;
  - creation of joint training staffs, including all professions concerned (human scientists, police, social workers, youth leaders and law experts);

19. We believe that adequate training will be a major step forward in the prevention of juvenile crime, the co-operation of youth NGOs with the Division will certainly further improve the situation.

Days 3 and 4 - Youth Projects

20. After having attended the morning session of the main plenary and having listened to the keynote speeches, the group realized that it would be necessary to utilize a particular format when requesting funding from certain resources.

21. This point was also emphasized by the UN system co-chair, who shared some of her experiences of her daily work.

22. Before going into the concrete planning of a joint project, participants from Singapore, Tobago and Lebanon explained projects their respective NGOs organized on the local and national levels, and experiences they had made.

23. Following the earlier discussion concerning policies, communication and training, the members of the Working Group agreed that the priority project should be aimed at improving the information exchange system between all partners concerned in the issue (young people, youth NGOs, Governments, IGOs and UN agencies).

24. Working Group 8, therefore, analyzed existing formats and followed the specific requirements of the UN agencies, which were explained by the UN system co-chair.

25. In following this rather strict format, a comprehensive understanding of the Working Group's proposed project could be gleaned by those parties who would decide whether to fund the project.

26. The Project Proposal is attached as follows:

Project Proposal

Title
"Global Networking System in the Field of Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice"

Subject area
Youth crime prevention and juvenile justice

Objectives
1. To improve communication

    a) between young people and youth NGOs
    b) among youth NGOs
    c) between youth NGOs and governments
    d) between youth NGOs and IGOs
    e) between youth NGOs and UN agencies

2. on all levels, namely

    a) locally
    b) nationally
    c) intra-regionally
    d) globally

Problem addressed

The involvement of (youth) NGOs in youth crime prevention and juvenile justice policy is not satisfactory due to the inaccessibility to information. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the communication systems among all partners, as indicated in 1.a) through 1.e).

Activities

Referring to 2.a), the NGOs will contact "youth in difficult circumstances", taking into consideration the unique preferences of young people in different cultures.

Referring to 2.a) and 2.b), the NGOs will establish and maintain contact with other NGOs on local and national levels by the least expensive and most effective means available.

Further referring to 2.a) and 2.b), NGOs will regularly communicate with government officers charged with responsibility of youth crime prevention and juvenile delinquency in their respective states.

Concerning 2.c), the national networks of NGOs - already established in phase one and two - will develop regular links with their respective IGOs in their concerned regions.

To ensure that the information gained from the input of the IGOs is not lost, all partners in the communication system - including the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its Secretariat (the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division) - shall be maintaining and updating an information exchange which shall include all aspects of juvenile justice and youth crime prevention.

Furthermore, to ensure the above-mentioned course of action, the following will be undertaken:

a) he youth NGOs participating in Working Group 8 of the World Youth Forum shall initialize the establishing of a database, containing names of NGOs,

their contact information (such as addresses, phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses and the name of a contact person).
b) Working Group 8 shall elect a "database director" to initiate and develop this database. The "database director" shall work with the UN Youth Unit and the National Youth Councils to maximize the reach of the database.
c) All NGOs and IGOs, as well as interested UN agencies, working in the field of youth crime prevention and juvenile justice shall be invited to participate in database with NO restrictions.
d) The database shall be used to distribute any and all necessary information by the least expensive and most effective means available.

Time Frame

The starting date for this project shall be the last session of Working Group 8 at the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (29 November 1996).

The use and maintenance of this database shall be ongoing.

Roles and responsibilities of ALL partners involved

- Each partner involved shall maintain contact with the "database director" to ensure two-way communication exists.
- Each partner involved shall distribute information received to its members, affiliates and other partners not yet involved in this process.
- It shall also be incumbent upon all partners to give feedback to the database for subsequent distribution (the relevant format is annexed to this proposal).

Cost calculation and funding strategy

At the moment, there are no funds available for this project, therefore, each partner shall look for funds in the area of office maintenance (paper, printing, postage, telephone and Fax, e-mail, rent, etc).

Furthermore, each partner shall investigate and use existing similar (adult) networks in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, such as:

- the UNOJUST Network (e-mail: 73362,2000@Compuserve)
- the homepage of the CPCJD/UNOV (http://www.ifs.univie.ac.@uncjin/uncjin.html)
- NGO Alliances on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (based at UN NY, UNOV and UNOG; addresses available from CPCJD/UNOV, PO Box 500, A 1400 Vienna, Austria)

In addition, each partner shall investigate and use other funding groups, such as private enterprises.

Funding sources for the intra-regional and global levels of the network shall be communicated to the "database director".

Evaluation process

The participating partners of Working Group 8 of the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System elected Mr. Collis Hazel, of the Tobago Youth Council, as "database director".

- Each partner (youth NGOs, Governments, IGOs, CPCJD/UNOV) shall report achievements to the "database director" not later that 1 April 1997, who will then compile the information and share it with all partners.
- The same procedure shall be followed on a half-yearly basis (10.1.1997, 1.4.1998 and 1.10.1998).

- The final evaluation shall take place during the Working Group on "Youth Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice" at the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, possibly held in Autumn 1998.

Each partner shall use the format of the "Draft Revelation Sheet"

"Data Revelation Sheet"

Date:

Name:

Network Partner:

Type (1)	Name (2)	Co-ordinates (3)	Legal Status (4)	Contact (5)	Observations (6)	Next step to be taken (7)

In each of the columns, please:

(1) specify whether new network partner is youth, student, NGO, Government, IGO, UN agency or other;.
(2) identify complete name and acronym of new partner;
(3) identify complete address, including phone/fax numbers, e-mail address, internet location, etc.;
(4) specify legal status of new partner (association, foundation, society, league, Government, individual, etc.);
(5) identify complete name of the contact person of the new partner, including the address, etc;
(6) summarize the overall evaluation of the new partner: interest shown, objection and suggestions made by the new partner, further information demanded by the contact person, expected commitment and participation by the new partner, way of participation in the networking system, additional help expected from the new partner; also include the date of first contact with the new partner;
(7) identify next steps to be taken, as agreed with the new partner

Final comments:

Please return this sheet to: the Database Director, Mr. Collis Hazel, Tobago Youth Council, 27, Police Station Street, Roxborough , Trinidad and Tobago (fax: +1/809/639 3210)

Internet Report

Ms. Agnes Niemiec, participant of Working Group VIII was member of the Internet Publishing Group and provided daily personal reports for the World Youth Forum's Internet homepage (http://www.blackbox.net/wyf).
Following is her contribution which was slightly changed and edited by the General Rapporteurs (native speakers).

Policy and Communication

As - generally - hardly anyone seems to be interested in law and rights, this Working Group will remain one of the smallest at the WYF. The 15 participants are representing nearly all continents, so we have representatives from Africa, North- and South America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Our two chairmen are Renate and Rupert. Renate is working at the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division. Rupert is a member of the Boy Scouts, who are engaged in informal education and general prevention, but cannot offer an expertise in juvenile justice.

Today's discussions were dealing with the topics "youth policy" and "youth communication". We dedicated this morning's session to discuss youth crime policy in the respective countries of the participants.

A major problem is the definition of the term "juvenile". For example, there is no general agreement as to what age group this term refers to. The Working Group did not try to find its own definition but agreed to concentrate on the substance.

In the following discussion, we compared the different situations children and young people are facing around the world: street children, war children, refugee children, rich but bored children, urban youth gangs, children in transition, victims of incest and sexual abuse.

The group then split in several sub-groups to further discuss this issue. And returned later to present the results of their brainstorming:

One children and young people are caught in the vicious cycle (no education - no job - no money for food, and education - no better job...) they are not able to get out of this cycle on their own. They need trust, skills, education and tolerance. It is us, who have these resources (either rich in mind, or rich in the pocket) who should find the solutions for these young people "in difficult circumstances".

Young people must be able to co-determinate all political programmes, especially those concerning their own rights. To achieve this, youth NGOs should work as a pressure group and lobby the different governments in order to have children and young people actively participate in the political process.

The term "violence" must be specified, as there are various different kinds of violence: domestic violence, violence outside the family, violence in the street, violence in prison, violence in school...

During the afternoon session, the group talked about the area of "youth communication". The participants agreed on the fact that the six official UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese) - in which the UN documents are usually available - are not enough to make the convention, rules, and guidelines known and understood for the young people around the world.

To achieve common knowledge about the global instruments on juvenile justice, not only translation into the respective native languages is needed, but also that children and young people really understand the contents of the texts, therefore, a rewording in "easy-language" (according to the target group's age) is substantial.

Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary to achieve a constant dialogue, not only between UN agencies and youth NGOs but also among youth NGOs themselves. The fast development of new media technologies should be used to maintain a regular information exchange between these partners, including the governments, whose representatives are actually the voting decision makers within the UN system.

The first conclusions

Looking for a solution concerning the area "youth policy", the group identified four local points, which must be emphasized during any further discussion and the development of any project:

- To prevent any youth crime
Programmes should be elaborated in order to help juveniles not to become criminals and offenders in the first place (otherwise, they will eventually also become victims!);
- To prevent the imprisonment of children and young people
Unfortunately, some Member-States of the UN still favour a rather rigorous policy to handle this problem: when a person (child, youth or adult) is convicted three times, she or he will spend the rest of her or his life imprisoned (North America); five (!) year old children (female or male) are imprisoned in some Asian countries for "misbehaviour in the streets" after having fallen victim to sexual abuse by tourists or natives;
As emprisonment must only be the very last solution for young offenders, the UN should investigate and advertize less drastic alternatives!
- To help and work with young prisoners
Interested youth NGOs should be given the right to access to children and young people who are imprisoned.
- To help and work with post-released juveniles
Ways will have to be investigated how to (re-) integrate released juvenile delinquents into society.

Looking for solutions in the area of "Youth Communication", the Working Group members identified the following ways:

- First of all, the knowledge about the UN system and how it works is extremely necessary (with special regards to juvenile justice).
- The influence of youth NGOs within the UN system should be strengthened and made transparent.
- A global networking system on "Youth and Crime" should be set up.
- (youth) NGOs should be given the right to vote in the relevant UN decision making bodies (ECOSOC-Commissions, ECOSOC; General Assembly), because a large amount of the projects at grassroots level are actually organized and funded by NGOs.

In general, a way must be found to achieve a continuous, global, and effective channel of communication between all partners (young people, youth NGOs, IGOs, governments and the UN agencies).

On day two of the Working Group sessions, the group concentrated on the theme of "youth training" in the area of youth crime prevention, and criminal justice. The group agreed that the following questions need to be answered before developing concrete projects in this field:

- Who is going to train? The partners in the network....
- What will be trained? information about and contents of the UN instruments
- How will be trained? media (books, manuals, videos, internet...), seminars, teaching programmes...
- For whom will be the training? main target groups (juvenile justice personnel, adults, law making professionals)
- Who will lecture in seminars? experienced experts (law professionals, university and independent researchers, human scientists, specialized and non specialized NGOs, governmental institutions, media professionals...

Finally, the working group broke up, postponing further discussion to the next day. Two participants presented the outcome made during the first two days at the main plenary.

Three national project examples and our first joint project idea

Introducing the subject of "youth projects", Renate, the UN system co-chair, re-emphasized the necessity of clearly structured project proposals and provided an example from her daily work within the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division:

- Subject area (title, project number, name of project running organization, location of project, participants)
- Objectives (aims and primary functions of the proposed project)
- Problem(s) addressed (identification of the problems)
- Activities (outline of activities to achieve the objectives, work plan, cost calculation)
- Time frame (starting date and duration)
- Role of project running organizers
- Impact of the project
- Evaluation process

As requested by the WYF Bureau and the overall rapporteurs, the Working Group had to consider some main recommendations for the WYF Report, following the outline of the Forum's work plan (policy, communication, training, projects). The central part should concern the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the main background document of the Forum.

In the course of the day, several participants explained existing national projects:

Singapore
Several national NGOs closely co-operate with the Government of this far eastern country and jointly organize different camps - one aimed at prevention and another aimed at correction. Both include "family conferences" bringing together the delinquent, the victim, teachers, parents and friends; in the corrective camps, where juvenile delinquents are sent after their conviction in court, the young offenders have to face physical "punishment" in the form of hard exercises. After release from a 15-day long corrective camp, the delinquents are sent home on probation, but have to fulfil strict regulations (be at home by 8:00 pm, etc)

Tobago
On the Caribbean island of Tobago, the police force has initiated "police youth clubs" where the community join forces to work in youth crime prevention, to raise self-esteem through sports, cultural and other activities. The juveniles gathered in these "Police youth clubs" are between 5 and 25 years old. The members meet twice or three times a week and also organize additional projects. Although the clubs co-operate with local councils and the Government, the projects are run on a non-governmental basis.

Lebanon
In this middle eastern country a programme has been developed for youths in prisons. Two NGOs are engaged in this activity (in co-operation with the government authorities) and organize educational sessions for the juvenile prisoners, so that they may have better chances, when they are eventually released. The NGOs are also co-operating with UNICEF in their activities.

After having listened to the reports on these activities on local and national levels, the group started to develop a joint NGO-UN agency activity, which was presented to the closing plenary of the World Youth Forum 1996.

J. WORKING GROUP II:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH, TOLERANCE, RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

SUMMARY

Different angles were discussed in approaching the matter:

Attitude (personal/individual)
Organized

Institutional (Intolerance etc)
Global

One needs different actions towards different types of intolerance and racism. The changing of attitude of the individual is nevertheless the basis.

Important questions:

How to change attitudes?
How to increase knowledge?
How to avoid lack of knowledge (considering other groups)?
How to prevent intolerance (work against future intolerance)?
How to use youth as a key to change the rest of the society?
how to establish cooperation and communication between different NGOs, IGOs, e tc. working on this field?
How to establish international cooperation on this field?
How to establish cooperation on a very local level also?
How to implement this in other sectors of youth work?
How to avoid prejudgment?

One has to make a movement on the grassroots-level to get changes (changes in attitude cannot be "decided" on a high level)

* Multicultural education can be a tool

To get a better youth representation in society in general will improve the situation considering intolerance.

Increase communication by improving
- awareness
- skills
- attitude

Practice the golden rule

Adapt means of communication
- respect cultural means
* use diversified channels of communication
* training for disadvantaged groups (+ all groups)

Educate people to celebrate both our similarities and our diversities

Ways of communication needs to reflect the culture in which they rest

In communication - ensure that the messages is received.

DISCUSSION POINTS:
(Thursday 28 November)

Personal level

In sessions/workshops on Intolerance, Racism and Xenophobia effective tools to change attitude on a personal level could be:

- input from persons that have gone through the process of changing from a person being intolerant to someone working against it.

Those persons have experienced what it is to hate. They know the fear to leave a group that believes in certain prejudice, because that means that they will become victims of their own group.

- to use games, films and other forms of art to show the effects of intolerance, racism and xenophobia. In that way people feel what it means to be excluded or hated because of certain prejudice.

We came to the conclusion that every human being has the capability to change itself, others and the society. Human being are not born intolerant, but can become intolerant by its environment.

National level

- to identify the legal instruments already existing
- to list the states that ratified or did not ratify these declarations
- to lobby in the countries that did not ratify
- to inform the citizen about these legal instruments. They should also know how Governments signed or did not sign
- to inform people about the events and projects already existing in the field of tolerance, racism and xenophobia
Not only by the usual ways, but also by using opinion leaders and pop-stars. A clear manual should be created.
- to establish contacts between NGOs in this field
Creating an evaluation day yearly on events and projects

International/regional level

- to inform about existing international conventions and declarations
- to clarify their exact meaning and to make people aware of this meaning
- to inform countries that did not sign about the reasons that made countries sign. Clear information about the process on the decision of signing and about the effects.
- to create a competition on the best project on Intolerance, Racism and Xenophobia. This tolerance prize should be recognized internationally and should attract the international media. Winners could be appointed as Ambassadors of Tolerance in order to travel round to world.

YOUTH COMMUNICATION

Racism, Intolerance and Xenophobia poses a serious threat to many communities and countries globally. Tackling these issues are complex and require a multi-dimensional approach and a cross-section of the people from the infected communities and countries working together locally, while networking with similar groups regionally and internationally. Patience and perseverance are crucial in this struggle since it is clear that centuries of racism, xenophobia and intolerance will not be eradicated in several years.

Racism, intolerance and xenophobia occur on different levels (personal, local, national, regional and international) and in different forms (random acts of verbal abuse, random acts of violence, attitude, organized acts of discrimination and attacks and institutionalized racism). Therefore, strategizing must reflect this understanding.

Our task is to carefully evaluate our present dilemma, then look to the future and form a vision of the type world we would like to have and consider, map out what it will take to create such a world.

Objectives (what kind of world we want?) with corresponding recommendations/strategies (what will it take?)

1. Breakdown stereotypes
    a) become familiar with source (media, homes, schools, etc) and origin (an incident, rumor, story, etc.) of stereotypes
    b) help people identify their stereotypes (ask persons to examine themselves; allow a mixed group to view pictures, then quiz them on their perceptions and what they see; of play games that are instructive about human behaviour)
    c) discredit stereotypes (site examples that discredits stereotypes)

d) explain stereotyping and its dynamics with a view of helping people to recognize it in themselves and how to go about correcting it
e) identify stereotypes in the use of language in literature, media, discourse, etc and suggest alternative world use or enlist students, lecturers and others to research and discuss this issue with a view of solving this problem
f) coach persons on the necessity to go beyond prejudgment and suggest techniques on how to change this dangerous tendency.

2. To resolve and prevent conflict
a) engage in open and honest dialogue to prevent misunderstanding or to clarify a point of contention or to resolve an active conflict (verbal and written dialogues are advised)
b) cross-cultural and intra-cultural exchanges, especially, for youth are crucial.
Participants in these exchanges should understand in advance the historical, socio-cultural, religious, political and economic dimensions of the community or country they are interacting with. This is to diminish the room for speculation/misunderstanding, hence, reinforcement or prejudices.

3. Promote tolerance and counter prevailing views, policies and actions that are intolerant, xenophobia and racist
a) disseminate information about human rights and the protection available on a national and international level
b) NGOs must deepen dialogue between youth in general and marginalized youth in particular
c) find creative and culturally relevant ways of communicating with youth (i.e. use oral means where necessary and literature where appropriate. Furthermore, become familiar with youth slang, lifestyle and culture)
d) utilize effectively and frequently the various channels of communications:
- Internet-share information with other NGOs, rally support for specific incidents, etc
- media (print and electronic)-encourage the media do develop self-governing guidelines that would eliminate its contribution to an intolerant, xenophobic, racist society (this would include monitoring discriminatory language, disproportionately showing one group in a negative manner or seldom show a group in a positive manner
- encourage entertainers to be responsible and sensitive in the material they produce. Critique movies and songs that youth consume and enlist popular entertainers support in this struggle
- utilize theatre which can be entertaining and educational to communicate with youth
- schools provide a captive audience for the promotion of tolerance. Lobbying school boards or governments to include such a focus in the curriculum is crucial
- face-to-face campaigns are crucial and indispensable - "each one, teach one"
- communicate messages through public signs
e. NGOs should be role models in terms of demonstrating tolerance
f. form coalitions and networks to facilitate resource/information sharing and to coordinate direct action
g. youth camps and retreats are effective venues to distribute information in.

4. Assist youth in functioning as bridge builders across racial, religious, cultural, class, ideological and gender lines and so on.
a) train youth at the earliest possible stage through formal and informal training using a multicultural approach to be agents of change
b) create a variety of means whereby young people can be exposed to other young people (from different races, religions, class, culture, gender and ideology) in positive, healthy and friendly scenarios (face-to-face, each other literature and music and dance and games and foods and so on)

5. Establish a network between NGOs, IGOs and the UN
   a) agree in principle for a reference group (this may be the WYF bureau of it may be representatives from participating NGOs, IGOs and the UN agencies) that will continue to network to monitor the outcome of this workshop
   b) regularly share information and resources where needed
   c) regularly meet and cultivate a relationship with the public and private sector where possible to diminish roadblocks in achieving the goals

5. Get each person to take responsibility for the message their life communicates
   a) each person must be good role model - "Tolerant, anti-racist and anti-xenophobic"
   b) promote the Golden Rule "To unto others as you would have them do unto you"

YOUTH TRAINING

The working group identified some problems, with "training". Some of the general problems identified were:

1. participation
2. resources
3. effectiveness (formal/informal, communication problems)

Training - a definition

Transfer of knowledge, skills, information that equip persons to carry out specific tasks and act as informed agents for change, development, etc.

Objectives

1. Ensure that a wide range of groups are represented in the training, including gender balance.
How?
i. target all
ii.review applications with balance in mind
iii. develop training and materials with balance in mind

2. Design training framework that is adaptable to different environments, with as wide a scope as possible
How?
i. finding common problems across the globe that have similar solutions,
ii. use bilateral cooperation as a means to obtain information and contacts, etc.
iii. invest in versatile trainers who can work across cultural and other boundaries
iv. recipients of training should help in designing training modules

3. Desing a "train the trainer" programme
How?
i. effective communication skills
ii. good balance between information and education v. entertainment and motivation
iii. humility (openness to learn from participants)
iv. generate discussion/facilitate the "learning process"
v. possess information (United Nations Declarations, issues, etc)

4. Show the necessity/value and objectives of training
How?
i. lobbying (Governments)
ii. publicize in (through) various vehicles (channels) and through official national, regional and international agencies
iii. cite present/historical problems and the profitable outcomes if objectives are accomplished

iv. cite success rate of similar training elsewhere or in the past

5. Ensure that the desired participants (target groups) receive training and ensure that needs as identified by youth are met through the training

How?

i. use appropriate channels of communication depending on the group
ii. choose appropriate (even unorthodox) venues to train
iii. train a cross-section of peer counsellors who can go back to their communities and promote future training programmes, as well as train

6. When planning training, consider the following:

a) Time constraints
   i. train many so that they will train many
   ii. trainees that don't have enough time to go to a training should have the training brought to them. Ask employers to permit time for training (ethics) and then integrate into everyday life
   iii. when training is too short, do training in segments, use distance education, use group training (sharing skills among group of co-workers)

b) Resources constraints
   i. NGOs should know how to design project proposals and have in place administration to implement projects and manage projects and act as the "guardians" of training
   ii. NGOs should be knowledgeable of various funding sources, contact persons and response time
   iii. NGOs should seek to attract resources (technical assistance, human power, time, advice) in order to achieve projects and we should help them to do son
   iv. training projects should utilize local projects and expertize
   v. NGOs should involve, and network with, the UN, IGOs, the Corporate community (local and international) and especially other NGOs.

7. Structure educational programme
How?
   i. formal: make complimentary to informal
   ii. informal: make complimentary to formal

8. Build in evaluation in the design of every aspect of the training (delivery/content/quality of material/etc)

How?
   i. determine indicators that would measure success

Recommendations

The issue of Tolerance, Racism and Xenophobia must be identified as one additional priority area to those already identified areas in the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The diversity and remaining levels of Intolerance, Xenophobia and racism require global action in order to: i) promote equal value of each individual; ii) increase knowledge to counter intolerance, racism and xenophobia; iii) breakdown stereotypes.

To achieve this we should pressure on Governments to recognize and implement international and regional instruments on tolerance and human rights; strengthen and establish mechanisms of cooperation between youth NGOs and the UN system and relevant agencies, as well to ensure the exchange of information and experience between youth NGOs at all level; include a multicultural dimension in both formal and non-formal education as well as in training, and ensure a wide participation in the training and education process; identify and encourage the use of those methods and strategies among youth that can prevent and resolve conflicts.

The working group decided upon the following:

The issue of tolerance, racism and xenophobia must be identified as one additional priority area to those already identified areas in the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond. The issue should also be recognized as a priority area as well as integrated in all areas; UN and other international bodies, IGOs, NGOs at all levels (international, national and regional), national governments and local administration.

Due to the fact that youth is a key group, one should recognize and emphasize the importance of youth NGOs in the fight against intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

The fight for the eradication of intolerance, racism and xenophobia must be undertaken at all levels; global, international, national and local as well as personal.

To share and transmit knowledge are the basis for countering intolerance, racism and xenophobia. This should be considered a right as well as an obligation for all young people

One must put pressure on Governments to recognize and implement international and regional instruments on tolerance and human rights. The Declaration on Human Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, etc.). This including a coherence between the national legislation and these instruments. One should also ensure that the mentioned instruments are continuously improved to cover all areas of intolerance, e.g. by expanding the definitions.

To strengthen and establish mechanisms of cooperation between youth NGOs and the United Nations system and relevant agencies, as well as ensure the exchange of information and experience between youth NGOs at all level.

Priorities of action

"Encourage and assist youth to promote equal value of each individual regardless racial, religious, cultural, economic and social origin gender, disabilities, sexual orientation and age"

Breakdown stereotypes

- identification and revision of means of communication (literature, language, etc) which are intolerant, racist and xenophobic
- encourage intercultural exchanges
- encourage systems of good practice (code of conducts) for international and national bodies

Youth projects

Tolerance network database - The REX Resources network

Description

To create a comprehensive database with regular updates available both on paper and on Internet which would contain following parts related to tolerance, anti-racism, support of minorities, migrants and refugees and similar ones:

- address books of organizations (be it OGs of NGOs, local, national, regional or global ones), funds, archives, Websites and other resources for each region of the world
- calendar of upgoing events like scientific symposia, conferences, meetings of organizations, public gatherings, charitable collections, children contests, etc.
- database of working methods like role-play games, peer-group education, fundraising, networking or communication skills

Objectives

- to share resources
- to interconnect organizations active in this field
- to make information as widely available as possible
- to promote the network's growth/replication

Target group

Organizations promoting tolerance and/or fighting racism

Partners

It is necessary to find key persons/organizations in all regions as partners to collect data and update the database

Financing

- international governmental + corporate fundraising, in the first stage go get money for a feasibility study
- in a later stage to charge a fee for access for those (individuals and organizations) who can afford it

Expected results

Improved quantity and quality of activities in this field

Indicators

- number of organizations involved each year
- number of events/actions in the database
- number of visits of the database on Internet

International youth tolerance award

Description

- to honour world's best young people or projects run by young people promoting tolerance cf fighting racism, xenophobia and intolerance. This prize (alike the Nobel Peace Award), under the auspices of the United Nations /Secretary General, should gain international recognition and media attraction.

- the winners would be appointed as Ambassadors of Tolerance in order to travel around the world with their mission.

Objectives

- to raise people's awareness by sharing successes and honour
- to highlight tolerance issues and contributions young people have made to them

Target group

- general public

- organizations which could possible replicate the projects

Partners
- UNESCO
- global media networks

Financing

Governmental and corporate sponsorship

Results
- higher awareness and sensitivity of people concerning human rights and tolerance issues
- broad publicity of the best projects and young people's stories
- multiplying effect

A campaign of World Citizenship

Description

To create a method of education which promotes respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Such a method will foster knowledge, openness, communication and freedom of thought, conscience and belief.

Objectives
- separate lesson on World citizenship as part as the formal curriculum of all secondary schools
- compulsory requirement that all schools facilitate the exchange of students between different countries
- in junior/secondary schools and universities, integrate World citizenship in all curricula activity, for example in History, Mathematics, Sciences, Literature, the Arts, etc... When studying history we not only focus on the wars and victories of one group of peoples over another, but we reinforce the pupils' understanding of the growth of society and its maturation throughout the centuries. In Mathematics, raise consciousness of World citizenship by using practical examples in illustrating mathematical models
- Mobilize youth organizations' activities in the field of combatting racism, intolerance and xenophobia by actively including World citizenship in their training programmes, seminars, youth camps and magazines
- actively involve the corporate sector in the World citizenship campaign by inviting them to join in practical projects that combat racism, intolerance and xenophobia in the community. Such practical projects can be used in the same spirit that training programmes are used in the corporate sector now to foster a team and objective focussed workforce.

Target groups
- formal education sector: schools and universities
- youth organization sector: whether NGO, local, national, regional or international
- corporate sector: whether they be small, large, local or multinational

Partners
- all organizations involved in the field of youth work can already begin to mobilize their focus and initiate campaigns on World citizenship. So the work can begin now.
- A central office should be identified to promote the World Citizenship campaign (this can be housed by an existing youth organizations, NGO, United Nations agency or the United Nations Youth Unit itself).

Financing

- Approaching the corporate sector not only with the intention of directly involving them on the practical project but also indicate to them that can help in the process of seeking funds for the projects. An example of a fund raising activity in the corporate sector is having "dress-down days" on Fridays where the employees of corporations dress in casual clothes and pay a small donation say US$1 for the privilege.
- The arts: run/promote music and drama events and use the funds generated on projects to do with combatting racism, intolerance and xenophobia.

Expected results

An increased consciousness of the masses through active involvement of the three sectors involved in the campaign

Indicators

- number of projects initiated in the name of this campaign annually
- number of organizations involved in the campaign
- number of corporation involved in the campaign.

K. WORKING GROUP X:
RECOMMENDATIONS ON GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Introduction and Methodology

The co-chairs noted with the participants that:

a) the theme for the working group "Girls and Young Women" was rather broad;
b) eleven other working groups have been enjoined to incorporate gender issues in their deliberations;
c) participants came from several cultures and countries, spoke over six languages (many did not speak English at all and the group had no interpreter for most of the time);
d) membership of the group lacked gender balance as there was only one male;
e) participants had varying experiences and sensitization to gender issues, to global, mostly UN and regional policies on women and girls.

Co-chairs, as a result, devised procedures and methodology that were participatory and facilitated interactive discussions, sharing experiences of participants as resource persons and facilitating indepth exploration of issues and ideas in small groups of five or six. The group combined small groups discussions with plenary sessions; use of visuals to stimulate the exchange of experiences and critical examination of unstated gender assumptions and stereotypes. Role play, daily evaluation of proceedings by participants, interviews by participants during lunch breaks of other group members, use of resource persons to compliment the expertise of co-chairs as well as sharing of success stories of role models were innovative ways of stimulating participants to maximally use the space created by the Global Youth Forum to contribute their ideas, get their voices heard. Each small group reported back to the plenary through group appointed rapporteurs. The large group appointed two French and English-speaking rapporteurs to report back to the plenary sessions of the Global Youth Forum.

Policy co-ordination: Girls and Young Women on the Agenda

Since policy is often directed towards resolving experiential problems, the subject was introduced through a small exercise were the participants considered their own experiences regarding sex discrimination and listed all the gender-related stereotypes.

Conscious of the fact that the improvement of the condition of the girls and young women is essential for a sustainable development, the work group identified:

- the forms of discrimination experienced by girls, including violence and sexual exploitation;
- the tools established at national and international level.

1. Identification of the forms of discrimination against girls and young women:
    - inequality of treatment at home, school
    - inequality of chances, employment
    - inequality in health care, education, training.
2. Tools established at national and international level for eliminating discrimination and empowering girls and young women.

In view of this situation the working group reviewed all the measures taken at national and international level to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and young women and to improve their situation. The text of most of these conventions were distributed.

At international level

- **the organisation of international events such as:**
    - World Summit for Children 1990
    - World Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 1992)
    - International Conference on Human Rights (Vienna 1993) Women's Rights as Human Rights
    - International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, Cairo 1994)
    - World Summit for Social Development (WSSD, Copenhagen 1995) Elimination of Poverty
    - Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995)
    - Habitat II (Istanbul 1996) (Right to Shelter for Women and Girls)
    - World Food Summit (Rome 1996) (Eliminate Hunger and Promote Food Security)
    - 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
        - Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
        - 1994 UN Declaration of Violence Against Women
        - 1995 Beijing Platform of Action (Summary and Full Text)
    - 1952 Convention on the Political Rights of Women
    - 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
    - 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in persons and of the Exploitation and Prostitution of Others
    - Commonwealth Policy for Youth and Gender
    - UN Action for Women: that highlighted several conventions by ILO, UNESCO
    - 1962 Rights of Women within Marriage and Family

- **the organisation of International Youth Consultations such as:**
    - Cairo Youth Declaration on Population and Development
    - Copenhagen Youth Declaration
    - Regional Youth Consultations for the 4th World Conference on Women
    - Istanbul Youth Declaration
    - World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.
- **the adoption of texts such as:**
    - Universal Declaration on Human Rights
    - Convention on the Rights of the Child
    - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Three institutions were created by the United Nations to ensure the advancement of girls and women:

- United Nations' Division of Advancement for Women,
- UNIFEM
- INSTRAW

However, the group found out that the declarations and commitments made by Governments were not implemented in many countries.

The analysis of the situation, led to the following conclusions:

- the ignorance or insufficient knowledge of the texts by the majority of participants;
- the lack of information and communication in the different countries.

The Group noted the following:

a) Over the past thirty years, the United Nations had formulated various conventions/policies/action plans covering various areas that are central to the welfare, advancement, mainstreaming and empowerment of women: Human (women's) Right to employment to qualitative, non-discriminatory education, to participation in politics, to shelter, food and nutrition, to protection against violence, discrimination and poverty.

b) With the exception of the Beijing Platform of Action and policy on youth, most participants had not heard of a majority of these conventions before the session. Many women and few girls were involved in the process of producing the Beijing Platform of Action and are now working for its implementation.

c) Although most of 187 member countries of the United Nations are signatories to the various conventions and therefore are bound by them, very few countries have implemented/publicized the conventions at the national level. Without implementing by incorporating the conventions in national policies on women, girls and youth as well as into the legal system of the countries, individual or groups of women and girls cannot have recourse to them in their efforts to fight violence or discrimination or efforts to empower themselves politically or economically. Hence policy has little or no impact on women and girls at national levels.

d) Many countries lack the political will (because of culture, religion or patriarchal systems), the capacity and resources to formulate and implement the policies at the national level.

e) Neither national media, the legal profession nor non-governmental organizations have the knowledge, resources or the organization to publicize the United Nations policies and hold national governments accountable for implementing agreements that they are signatory to.

DAY TWO

Ways of Communication

The subject was introduced by a visual art show picturing women in different regions and in different situations. Participants discussed their personal (positive or negative) reactions on the paintings and sketches shown.

The participants identified the obstacles to a more effective dissemination of information and a better implementation of the conventions and agreements taken at national and international level. They also formulated strategies for an effective and efficient communication.

1) Obstacles to a better diffusion of the existing declarations and conventions include:

- the limited number of young women in decision-making and development bodies;
- the negative attitude of the population due to religion and culture;
- prejudices;
- stereotypes;
- preconceived ideas;
- customs and traditions;
- illiteracy;
- the non-translation of the texts into the national language;
- the lack of resources;
- the lack of political will;
- media attitude towards women's issues.

2) **Strategies for the improvement of communication:**

- governments have to take necessary measures to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms;
- efficient use of the media;
- use of art forms such as cartoons, posters, pictures, poems, music, theatre skills and drama;
- organization of information and awareness-raising campaigns;
- organization of cultural events;
- involvement of networks of women, youth, NGOs, pressure groups, etc.;
- translation of document into national language.

The group concluded that the declarations and conventions on the Rights of Women established by the United Nations have not yet been implemented by most of the governments. The media, the legal professionals and NGO's should play a more efficient role in disseminating the information to enable the individuals to know their rights and thereby make a concerted effort to pressurize these governments.

The working group emphasized that youth organizations in general have to work hard to change the situation. They have to take an active part in the development and the implementation of the strategies for a better promotion of youth.

Recommendations:

1) The United Nations need to apply more pressure on governments of member countries to implement conventions and agreements that they are signatory to. To make this more effective, the United Nations should, through relevant agencies, develop kits, give technical assistance and train a corp of consultants who will assist member countries to formulate, ratify, implement, monitor, continually review and update National Policy on Women and Girls as well as Plan of Action to implement the Policy. Many of the United Nations Field Offices alone do not have the capacity and training to undertake the task.

2) Participants should undertake to share with Youth Organizations, NGOs, peer groups, documents and information on existing United Nations and regional policy/conventions on Women and Girls. In this way, they will help build up a core of informed and gender-sensitized individuals including the media and the legal profession who will in turn pressurize and hold their governments accountable for implementing agreements that they are signatory to.

3) The United Nations and its relevant agencies should support NGOs, youth organizations and the media with material and other resources to facilitate the dissemination of the information and, therefore, the strengthening of the civil society to act as additional pressure group that will hold governments accountable for implementing agreements and formulating policy on women and girls at the national level.

DAY THREE

Training

An introduction was made to the theme of the day: THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY. The importance of action and implementation of the outcome of this forum and the previous strategies was put up as a responsibility to everybody, not only the UN agencies and governments.

The participants prioritized training needs for girls and young women and discussed in small groups how they could personally implement the strategies decided at international level to improve the conditions of girls and women.

The group identified and prioritized the following specific training needs to facilitate more effective communication.

- Gender-sensitization as to different levels of discrimination and how to deal/cope with it;
- Reproductive Rights and Health;
- United Nations Conventions on Women and Girls for both men and women as part of the effort to promote gender equity and cooperation;
- Leadership skills;
- Legal literacy;
- Environment and resource management;
- Training in small/medium enterprise development and management including self-financing;
- Gender-sensitization of the media, the legal profession and other decision-makers;
- Basic and higher and professional education to develop skills and expertise for active participation in mainstream family and society especially for potential mothers who will also be able to inform and educate their children;
- Developing video and materials for training/formal teaching of students especially young women on human rights focusing on rights of girls and women using the rich and copious material in Geneva. Training should extend to teachers and professionals who may not have had the benefit of earlier training.

The outcome was 33 ways of changing people's thinking and attitudes and a development of an action kit, a tool for personal involvement and commitment, which can be easily adapted to different countries and societies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Simplify, translate and distribute information on existing conventions, policy, platforms of action about women and girls at grassroots level through the above alternative media;
- The UN should facilitate increased access of women and girls to, and their use of, the internet and other electronic media as an alternative and diversified source of information. This will strengthen the capacity of women and girls to access and use relevant UN policies and conventions;
- The UN and its agencies should develop more effective distribution systems of materials on its various conventions of relevance to youth, women and girls;
- Participants should study the functions of UN agencies in their countries as well as the faces of UN staff and those of such regional/bilateral groups as the Commonwealth, European Union, OAU, Arab League, etc. to facilitate their access to relevant literature, eg:

  "The change of Thinking, The Change of Attitude:
  a kit for CHANGE and ACTION" (attached)

DAY FOUR

Projects

The working group decided to split up in two groups to discuss possible projects at global and at local level.

- The global project was decided to address the fact that the UN Conventions on women are not known by men and women and are not being implemented by most of the member states.

Problems addressed:

- The UN Conventions on women are not known by men and women
- The conventions are not being implemented by most of the Member States.

Project Title: **Effective Dissemination of UN Policies on Girls and Young Women**

Objectives:

- increase knowledge and awareness of UN policies on girls and women at national level;
- empower women to exercise their rights;
- promote the application and impact of these policies and conventions at national and individual level through appropriate legal tools;
- increase chances of ratification and implementation of these conventions at national level.

Time frame: 2 years

Activities:

Role of the UN and its agencies:

- Train a core of consultants and trainers to help NGOs and youth and women associations, media, etc. to disseminate information on the UN Conventions;
- Support NGOs and youth and women associations who have effective networks with material, technical and financial resources;
- Train a core of consultants and trainers to help governments to formulate and disseminate national policies;
- To have a more effective network and contact with youth;
- Implement follow-up mechanisms;
- Make documents user-friendly;
- Develop a kit to assist governments to implement conventions and monitor implementations.

Role of IGOs:

- Provide financial resources;
- Help NGOs and youth and women associations to fundraise.

Role of NGOs and youth and women associations:

- organisation of awareness campaigns, training of men and women, distribution of materials on policies and conventions to men and women;
- support youth and women organizations;

- develop and use alternative media: e-mail, newsletter, drama, etc.;
- work with local media;
- devise innovative ways to actively involve youth, church, mosque, community-based organizations through drama, music, etc. in the dissemination;
- assist youth to transform UN Conventions in youth language to enable a better understanding amongst youth of the conventions.

Role of the media:

- Publicize contents of conventions and status of implementation in many countries;
- Critically analyze and monitor governments' implementation of the policies in collaboration with the public, youth, women on youth.

Impact - results

- improved dissemination and understanding of relevant texts and instruments;
- changed attitudes and less discrimination towards men;
- more national policies on women at national level;
- greater impact of UN conventions and policies on women, girls and their families.

The local project was decided to address the spread of information from the United Nations to Young Women and Girls:

Project Two Title:	Effective Dissemination of Information from the United Nations to Young Women and Girls
Target Group:	Girls and young women
Project Area:	Girls and Young Women

Objectives: To enhance awareness among Girls and Young Women, about the conventions and declarations on their rights. Improve the channels of communication, and cooperation between women NGOs and associations in various countries.

Problems addressed: Society has little knowledge of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Women's Rights. Without this knowledge, women cannot stand up for their rights. Therefore, there is need to address the effective communication between the United Nations and young women and girls.

Activities: Production and sending of packages containing essential simplified information regarding conventions, declarations and other documents on Women's Rights. From NGOs and associations in countries with a relatively high level of awareness and resources to women NGOs and associations in countries in which the need for information is strongly felt.

Time-frame: Initially, form a pilot project consisting of two recipient countries and two provider associations in the first year and increase this in the second year. This project should be evaluated at the Third World United Nations Youth Forum.